

THE MIDORE.

A NOVEL.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

BY

A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD.

Can Fama in telli granis Julo daret.

OVID. *Epig.* 5. *L. 3.*

LONDON:

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~~THE MIDDLE~~

TO THE PUBLIC

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TRANSLATOR
L O N D O N
London, the Publisher, W O R K I N G
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TO THE PUBLIC.

THE following sheets were translated by way of amusement; they are now published from a capricious whim. Still I hope every purchaser will find entertainment in the perusal.

A variety of other employments has prevented a re-perusal and copy of this work; as such, numberless are the errors likely to be found herein; for the Publisher has been under the necessity of printing it from the original rough copy.

As to the Critics, I must beg they will not give themselves the unnecessary trouble of pointing out faults or beauties; for their criticisms, whether severe or lenient, will have an equal effect with their total silence on the mind of the

TRANSLATOR.

LONDON, 31st Dec. 1782.

(8)

Advertisement.

BEFORE we enter the cabinet of a virtuoso, we not only please ourselves with the expectation of what we are to see, and of what the collection consists, but are likewise anxious to know with what avidity and spirit they were collected; and as it pleases our fancy, so we interest ourselves in the precious morsels it contains.—This is the exact predicament in which I would wish every reader of these Memoirs to find himself. I will endeavour to answer the expectations they may have formed.

The Author, whose Adventures I am going to lay before the Public, was a Counsellor

ma fellow

fellor of the parliament of Paris.—As this work appears without his knowledge, it would be ridiculous to expose his name; as being made an author of, would highly displease him: all that is therefore necessary to be said of Monsieur De Themidore is, that he is young, handsome, well made, full of spirit, and an extravagant lover of pleasure. With these qualities, it is nowise astonishing he should constantly study his amusements, which, from the sphere he moved in, he could not fail to meet with.

It would be singular, if, at his age, he were not open to flattery; which the mention of his amours to his friends never failed to procure him: it is therefore to his vanity and self-love that I am in some measure indebted for some descriptions in these Memoirs; and to Monsieur Dea Court, to whom they are addressed.

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am I beholden for the pleasure I received from their perusal, and with him I join in saying, they merit the same from all who read them.—The impression they made on my mind will not be easily effaced.

These Memoirs will not be found an imaginary tale, calculated only to answer the end of some luxurious minds; but they are the narration of a young man who entered the world with the idea of Pleasure being an invention of his own discovery, and pursued it with all the warmth that that notion inspires; and, however improbable these Memoirs may appear, the Public may rely on their authenticity, though they are the production of an impetuous spirit, who with all fire of youth has pictured Enjoyment in its highest colours, without entering into voluptuousness. The portraits are from

IMAGINATION and Nature,

Nature, and are worthy of a place in the first selections of gallant miniatures.

I would not advise the most scrupulous minds to read these Memoirs; for they are sometimes too ticklish, and capable of reviving very dormant ideas: they are only calculated for minds returned from trifles, or that live in their sunshine only: yet they are wrote with caution; nor is there a word which may put modesty to the blush; but, as I said before, I cannot be answerable for the ideas they may give birth to. They are interspersed with sentiment, easily to be retained; and cannot fail pleasing, as they consist of well-digested bagatelles, calculated to amuse the mind.

THEMI-

THE MIDORE.

THAT, my dear Marquis, which I have so long desired, and have searched after with so much avidity, has at length accidentally arrived. I have at last possessed the charming Rozette: as you know her, you may judge if I have not taken a happy likeness. She has spirit, judgment and wit; is pleasing in the exercise of her talents; and by doing every thing with a graceful ease, she has the art of making every body do what she pleases: join this to an elegant make, with an enchanting gait, small mouth, and beautiful white teeth, fine expressive black eyes, and resplendent graces in all her person. Such are the attractions which have completed my happiness. She is prudish in your words to her, and tender of her character:—

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at one instant, her capriciousness drives you to desperation, and then her fondness overwhelms you with the most delicious ideas. Rozette understands to perfection the language of the eyes; ready at your call, she immediately gives you her declaration. She fools with pleasure, and always distances it as much as possible from its true destination: she has a singular taste; for she is fonder of admiring and caressing *good fruit*, than in extracting its vivifying *juices*.

Three days had elapsed, my dear Marquis, since you acquainted me with the possession of Memin; when filled with unpleasant ideas for your health, I was at length relieved by hearing from you. I immediately flew to the Palais Royal to communicate to our friends your good tidings; when loitering through one of the narrow alleys, I perceived the President of Mondorville; he was as usual gay, with his head erect, seemingly pleased with himself, and looking for admiration from all beholders; and by way of shewing a new gold snuff-box, was with affected carelessness repeatedly

repeatedly taking snuff; when on passing he accosted me with "I am your's;" and after a turn or two, I left him to contemplate an original group of politicians, who were intensely arguing on things that could never come to pass; and to my great surprize, as I approached an old officer, who was talking very loud and very well (a novelty in one of his cloth) I heard him make a handsome panegyric to our illustrious monarch; when perhaps for the first time in his life he was not contradicted.

The Marquis had by this time returned from the regulating dial, which had put him out of humour; as his last new watch had lost some few minutes. He assured me that Julian le Roy should never make him another; and that he would instantly order from London a dozen repeaters.

Those whose *time-pieces* are not to differ a second, are in constant contradiction with themselves.

My dear Counsellor, said he, I have a prize from Spain; I bought it of that American merchant you see under those trees; they say he's newly a convert to good Christianity; but in his dealings with a virtuoso, he is a perfect Arabian.

You look as handsome as Love; indeed, one would take you for him, if you were as capricious. I suppose the young baroness still makes you wear her chains; if not, as your father is in the country, we will divert ourselves in town. Paris is quite deserted; there are not a dozen handsome women in it; therefore those that will take the trouble of changing, may rely on success.

You must dine with me to-day: we are five, and shall receive great pleasure in the sixth, as you will make it. I have sent away my equipage, and La Verdure has orders to bring me a remise.

Argentine is of our party; she is an adorable

rable girl, hates all restraint, and has the best inclinations in the world.

You know very well, my dear Marquis, the President? He has genius and honour, is an enthusiastic follower of pleasure; in the evening at the ball; early in the morning at the Palais Royal; in conversation he is charming, and at the toilet he is admirable; is intrusted with all the secrets of female beauty, and by keeping in equilibrium the *scales of justice*, he is suffered to riot amongst the *roses of Venus*.

We hastened unknowingly out of the gardens. La Verdure had not yet arrived; but we were diverted by the boastings of two young men, who were mutually exaggerating their own good fortunes: their air seemingly announced a contradiction to what they advanced. Perceiving several vestals at their windows, our curiosity was excited to approach them; but as their characters were all their dependence in that quarter, which was

trumpeted all through the neighbourhood, we acted with caution : yet from their attire one would suspect they officiated at the mysteries of Cytheris, though they seemed incapable of illumining any but *artificial fires*. Still waiting for La Verdure, we were considering the coffeehouse of Régence, which formerly cut so conspicuous a figure, and were pitying the poor hostess who was obliged to fly a husband, who never would be chosen by the gods to administer to them nectar at their feasts. We then turned our attention to the coffeehouse of the Beaux-Arts, newly opened and elegantly furnished—much frequented ; which, if it so continues, is not likely to become the coffeehouse of Deserted Arts. The mistress, Madam Morin, was at the door in dishabille, which often covers more art than all the ornaments dress can bestow. She is obliging and polite ; and though not handsome, is pleasing : of fair complexion, speaks with complaisance, and her repartees teem with wit. From the nature of her profession, we might suppose her a sensualist—her leg is
finely

finely turned and well proportioned, and excites a desire of deciding on the rest from ocular demonstration. In the interim La Ver-
dure arrived. We took our seats in the carriage: he told us all was ready; that Mademoiselle Laurette and Mademoiselle Argentine were waiting; but as to Mademoiselle Rozette, she was indisposed, and begged we would excuse her. The intelligence of Rozette's indisposition highly disconcerted me, as you may suppose; for I was totally ignorant of the surprize she intended to practise on us. We are often led to regret that which frequently in its end turns out the most agreeable.

The President never ceased speaking till we arrived at the house of our destination. He is never permitted to be silent; as his knowledge of the fashionable world is so extensive; for there is not a person of any consequence with whose name, intrigues, manners and adventures he is not perfectly well acquainted.

acquainted, and is fully informed in the scandalous chronicle of Paris.

Look there, said he, at that tall pale-faced Fleming; he is a great gamester, and he thinks himself much above all his companions. Do you see there the wise Damis, with an ingenious clerical countenance: he carries the idea of being immersed in deep thought, and you will think well of him while he keeps silent; but his physiognomy is a liar, and the man who is like him is not a good one.

Do you see the little duke in his equipage? he is passionately fond of women of pleasure, and is always gallanting with them; but they know his taste, and many are of opinion that he always bilks those parties.—Have you not seen the Countess Designy? she is always alone in her vis-à-vis, driving from house to house, to announce her patronage to a new piece which is to be performed this evening at the Italian Theatre; she speaks highly in
its

its praise, though she has not read it; but as the author is her brother's secretary, she judges of it from knowing the intrigue.—Look yonder at young Pholiphonte in his celestial blue phaeton at full speed; he's the son of a rich wine merchant, and thinks himself an *Adonis*—he may be the favourite of *Bacchus*, but he never will be of *Love*.

I dare not turn my head toward that jeweller's shop of Hebert's; for 'tis absolute ruin: he is continually selling me some bagatelle or other, and takes away all my money. He practises on the Frenchmen what they did on the Americans; that is, he exchanges his shells for their ingots of gold.

We at length arrived at the house of our destination; and after waiting some time, *La Verdure* came down with the ladies. You, my dear Marquis, will readily agree with me in not liking that our servants should be so essentially necessary to our secrets or pleasures. When in possession of a jewel we esteem, we

watch it; but if we intrust it to another, we must not wonder it should tempt him from being its guardian to become the possessor; and nothing is more likely than that the girl who accommodates herself to you from interest, should bestow herself on your confident friend.

Isabelle and Argentine got into the carriage with us: having drawn the blinds, we proceeded. The President began with embracing our companions: they endeavoured to defend themselves, or seemed so to do. I followed my friend's good example, and kept playing and toying. The time flew, and we soon found ourselves at the ice shop.

Having given an intelligent servant orders, and made him master of our purse, there is no wonder we should have found an elegant dinner prepared according to our most sanguine expectations: the greater our extravagance, the more to his advantage. Who is

not luxurious in ideas, when he is not at the expence of them?

The house we were at is hired by the President, where every desirable accommodation is to be met with: its outward appearance is not brilliant; but the inside makes sufficient amends; and though on the outside it bears the idea of *Vulcan's* forge, yet within you find it the palace of *Venus*.

Those small neat houses give one charming ideas. They seem invented by Mystery, and constructed by Taste, with all the elegance that conveniency can suggest, and are superbly furnished: yet one cannot meet with any thing superfluous there, though you will find all the exquisite deliciousness of every thing necessary. One is sure never to find there friends of the prohibited degree; therefore never under any restraint. Wisdom is given up at the door; and Secrecy, who keep constant, is sure never to admit any one but *Pleasure and amiable Libertinism*.

We sat down to dine—You must excuse me a description of our entertainment. Picture to yourself every thing voluptuousness could desire, served with all the subtilty of art, and you will not wrong our dinner. I seated myself next to Laurette, and the President chose Argentine. La Verdure made us wait some time after a very rich soup, which interested us employed in an argument that arose on that horrid, heavy, though well wrote opera of Dardanus, which, after some time spent in discussion, was interrupted by the Cook Mariolo's sending us the rest of our repast: the announcing the names of such delicacies were sufficient to create an appetite; much more may be expected from the reality, which we did begin to taste.

As you are not acquainted with our two convivial dances, I will endeavour to give you a sketch of them.——Laurette is still young; but less so than she would make you believe her to be; nay even less so than she thinks herself. The ladies on this head

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always

always adhere to *first truth*.—She is tall, and well set; her make and leg announce her of a disposition of excelling in more than one *line*; she is brown, and lively, and places herself of being capable of exciting more *desires* than one.

Argentine is rather too much so for plain; her nose a little turned up; her mouth and teeth are beautiful, with a well turned hand and arm. Nature, in forming her neck, was too exuberant in bestowing on her a large portion of beauty. Pleasure is the goddess of her adoration; and she sacrifices at her shrine as often as opportunity will offer. Their conversation is nearly the same; and though trifling, is always brilliant and entertaining—they possess the art of pleasing.

Knowing the impetuous spirit of the President, I was surprised to find our dinner pass so quietly; and I judged when he retired for a few moments with Argentine, under pretence of showing her a cabinet to which he had

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had newly added some Persian rarities, it was
 enough to caution her against the effects of the
 champagne; otherwise I pity him if he was
 to long *and* without a *previous preparation*.—
 As for me, I then felt I could not reserve my-
 self if I would. Is there a great crime in
 letting Nature have absolute empire over you?
 they do say there is glory to be derived from
 having it over her; but I confess I have al-
 ways felt more real pleasure from her direct-
 ing me.

Already Merriments had animated our re-
 past, and a few *faux* songs gave life to new
 and agreeable desires; many kisses passed in
 consequence, and our companions assumed a
 sufficient degree of pride to say they endea-
 voured to resist and defend their charms.—
 When we least thought of it, we were inform-
 ed by La Verduré that some one was waiting
 with a letter from Roxane; it was necessary
 we should send an immediate answer, which
 the President accordingly did in great haste;
 and I joyfully informed her with the agree-
 able

able confusion she might expect to find in me. Her answer was, She would join our amusements in less than half an hour. We all drank her health—I did it in a style which caught the attention of Argentine and Laurette, and convinced them she had a preference.

The heart frequently betrays itself, and is on every rencontre taken by surprise; and though women of this cast are less sensible of jealousy than the rest of their sex, yet their feelings were sufficiently piqued at the preference; and without saying a word, they determined Rozette on her arrival should not profit at their expence, particularly as they merited all attention from me. In punishing the love I manifested for Rozette, they answered two ends; the one was, in procuring themselves pleasure, and the other in depriving her of it; which last motive was sufficient for them to put any scheme in practice.

Women.

Women in general return bad for bad; but their revenge was more industriously calculated; as they were recompensed by pleasure, and could only give pain to the object it was put in practice against.

We delayed our desert till the arrival of Rozette. I omitted telling you, my dear Marquis, she herself brought the letter, and was in concert with La Verduce hid in an adjoining apartment, where she was an eye-witness of every transaction that passed with us. Why was not I made acquainted with it? had I been, I would have laid a contribution on them all for the disclosure of her retreat, but widely different from a military one; for we only would have raised it where we were most dear.

An occurrence occasioned the departure of Argentine—the President offered her his hand—Laurette and myself only remained. Argentine was in a dressed gown of a ripe citron colour, with a head-dress that asked you to
rumple

rumple it. Laurette was neatly elegant in a dress of red silk. Simplicity set off Argentine; but the neatness of Laurette gave her the advantage. Nothing can make a pretty woman ugly; she must always be possible, if her dress be ever so unbecoming. The President remained some time out of the room—Laurette and I were laughing within ourselves at the situation we were in; judging the assistants would employ their time in the most serious manner, and if they had any accounts to settle, they would leave us a long space to fill up, which we passed as I will relate.

Those who laugh at others, are often punished themselves; and in criticizing your neighbour, we court the same fate. Morality is very weak when opposed to pleasure.—Put away that plate, said I to Laurette, it gives you pain. The trimming of your gown is remarkably elegant: it used to offend Duchap* has great taste in dress and trifles, particularly as he has the art of

* A silk merchant near the opera-house.

Selling

selling them for their weight in gold. How beautiful you look ! the addition of a little wine has given a divine fire to your already too piercing eyes.—Your neck is quite covered with powder ; let me take it off :—and bringing my finger lightly along, I wished to have been another Jonathan *.——Let me look at that ring ; your fingers are well ornamented ;—and in so saying, I seized her hand, and kissed it ; she grasped mine, and squeezed it with a pressure of love. I kissed her with all the ardour of a fired imagination, which were received with redoubled pleasure when they met in contact with her most enchanting lips, that generally was the case. My desires increased, and our fire rekindled in each other an inclination, to the attainment of which we knew not how to make a verbal requisition ; but with fixed eyes we drew near to a canopy, to which our destiny seemed to lead us perhaps maliciously. 'Twas there then, without entering into any detail, I occupied myself *essentially* in my *proper duty*. I, as well as

* Third book of Kings.

herself,

herself, was lost in ecstasy—all I can recollect was, that I had fallen into a kind of *precipice*, wherein she helped to bury me; and in which I should have still continued, if, contrary to what generally happens, I was not sufficiently strong to have made a longer stay there.—We waked from our lethargy, blushing from what we had felt; we were nevertheless desirous of repeating the same.—It is proper to have some shame; and it fits easier on a man of the robe than a colonel in the hussars, as we are not permitted to be so gallant as men of your cloth.—We laughed the next instant at our having been so mad; but we were so little affected with our folly, that a mutual kiss invited us to return to the first moment of again losing our reason.

Argentine returned; her dress was changed to a habit: she appeared as if the ceremony of her dress had not been disturbed, and laughed at Laurette, whose dress did not indicate as much.—Physiognomy seldom misleads us.—She then amused herself with looking

ing at Laurette's eyes and mine; then turning to the canopy, all which she examined with circumspection, desired I would draw a chart of the miles on which I had been fighting, and mark them in red. She then ironically asked us why Nature, if she made us weak, should ever take pleasure in discovering it to the rest of the world? why the eyes should thus tacitly acknowledge the fault? are not mine the mirror of my innocence? Apparently this once, Argentine had the advantage, and appeared not to be fatigued, when fighting by rule.—As we shall spend the day here, said she to Laurette, you had better, like me, undress yourself; and as no ceremony is necessary, put up your things on the bed up stairs; but be careful you do not wake the President, who is sleeping on the dutchess's *.—As the night was good, Laurette followed it, though she perceived Argentine had some interested view in giving it. Where is there a woman who would assist in giving a rival a decided preference? In quitting us, she maliciously

* A sort of couch.

turned

turned her head, and sarcastically told us, The master of an art is up to all its secrets.

It is Argentine, my dear Counsellor, you have now to do with, said she to me.——She had already bolted the door; and without any further preamble, said, I love you, and our time is short: as to the President, he has only raised a flame; he began the combat, and has left you to vanquish for him. Has not that canopy been already witness of your prowess and courage? it is powdered, but I am not afraid of it; for it is honourable when obtained in the field of battle:—and with a kiss which I returned with all the glowing *ardour of desire*, she gently led me to it, where I very voluntarily followed her. Nothing is equal to a woman of temperament when frustrated in her expectations: 'tis not taste, but 'tis passion; 'tis not transport, but 'tis fury. I always shall believe there is not any thing in this world more exquisite than the possession of an object of this kind.—But to be brief: I attacked the *fort* that was offered me, fought

fought with courage, and vanquished with glory. I extended my conquest through regions and climates into which my entrance had been facilitated. Argentine and I left our situation well satisfied: if she was not surprised at my valour, she had reason to glory in it.—Oh that Rozette may shortly arrive! said she; I wish her much pleasure from you: we shall be very friendly; and I beg you will testify to her how much I love her.—You may judge, my dear friend, that she did not leave me the means to justify her.

Laurette, on her return, looked stedfastly at the canopy; said it was contagious, and there was no approaching it without being subject of bearing the marks of its resentment. Let's see your eyes, Argentine, and your's too, my dear Counsellor; I think they say, my good friends, you are very tranquil, and resemble the mighty Prince de Conti, who was never more cool than when in the midst of raging battle. The President is still asleep; let's finish that bottle of frontinac.—

But

But you seem pensive, my dear Counsellor; you must not put on that very respectful air; you were always known to have great attention to the ladies, therefore you must not now be wanting of it.

After a long and uninteresting conversation, in which we discussed books, fashions, lace, &c. we began with bringing Rozette on the carpet; when she agreeably surprised us with her presence, and prevented any further conversation about her. I rose immediately to meet her, which she prevented; and after having received from us all a joyful greeting on her arrival, she went round the table, giving each of us a kiss; which, from the pleasing vibrations of the lips, was such as ever are the echo of Pleasure.

She then made a discovery of all mystery, told us she had been long since a spectator in the adjoining room, repeated every proposition that passed, discovered all our adventures; nay, she even knew how many minutes I had occupied

occupied with Argentine; and, as a connoisseur, assured us I had been too long employed for a little, and too short for a great deal. She left it to the decision of Argentine herself, who in one word made my eulogy.

Rozette was dressed in a beautiful fine white linen, without a hoop, which discovered a leg from which she could not fail to draw a thousand advantages.—The President is still asleep, said she, we will not wake him; as the desert was delayed till my arrival, we will have it now, and leave him none; and for the first time let the Judge have nothing but the shells of oysters to contemplate.—We followed her advice; an hour passed in playing and singing, in witticisms and repartees, and breaking a few glasses and a little china. There is little necessity to observe here, I believe, how much it is the fashion for the ladies of quality, after the departure of their husbands for the army, to assume the *petite maitresse*, and to give suppers; at which they are fond of the jingling of glass and
find

find much pleasure and amusement from breaking looking-glasses and tables, throwing chairs and waiters out of the windows, &c. Have not women of fashion the same right inherent in their natures of copying the young marquisses in the debaucheries, since they copy them in their intrigues?—I accidentally drew from my pocket my *flute*; Laurette caught hold of it, and as she *plays* passably well, she preluded her airs with a few trilling quavers; and after playing some very touching ones, Rozette took the instrument, finding fault with its construction:—she said the method of drawing sounds from tonguing it was very indecent; and maintained, that a lady ought never to touch a *flute* in company.—Where the moral would have carried her to, I know not; but in the end she was right: she concluded with remarking, that there were certain things that a woman should ever be careful in not letting the world know that she knew how to use.—After these reflections on my *flute*, Rozette began talking of herself. 'Tis common when in certain parties, after

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having

having sufficiently exhausted pleasurable subjects, to enter into the embarrassments their situations often throw them into, and the misfortunes that have befallen them. What a cruel destiny for a philosophic mind to be a woman of pleasure! Rozette made a good comparison between them and the abbesses, which I will give you as nearly as I can recollect.—

The one, said she, begin the world with an air of modesty and shame: the others with all the affectation of religion and devotion. We look at the men with a significant leer; they at the women with devouring appetites from under their large hats: the men come to look for us, and we glide to them; and though we are the ruin of our lovers, they make their fortune only by their mistresses. We are in opulence while we are young; they are never at ease till they get aged; at which time we generally get pious and wise: they on the contrary, are greater libertines. Necessity is our vocation; interest generally theirs: they give nothing to the world but what is of the best, and to the church the refuse

fuse of Nature. We are to the state two indefinite beings, which belong to no one, are every where to be found, and, though not necessary, are not to be dispensed with.——She afterwards related several droll adventures she had herself with some very grave ecclesiastics, which were highly diverting; but I must, my dear Marquis, pass them over, as I have two brothers of the cloth, the one a canon, and the other a commendatory abbé; and I would not have it said that I reveal the secrets of the church.

The President at last waked, and came down, was much surpris'd to see Rozette—he flew to her, embraced her, and seated himself directly opposite, that he might contemplate her at his ease.

His sleep had refreshed him, a glass of cordial put him in good humour, the company gave him boldness, he felt himself strengthened, and ridicul'd my weakness, which greatly

ly humiliated me—Argentine and Laurette inwardly triumphed. My eyes were turned towards Rozette to ask pardon for what had happened, or rather what was to happen; she appeared touched with my situation: for if a mishap arises in her company, her feelings generally make her participate therein. They laughed, joked, and ridiculed me. The President proud of an instant of courage, enjoyed my depredation; and in a haughty and imperious tone, ironically felicitated me on my success on the canopy. How Prosperity triumphs over those under misfortunes!

Rozette felt herself piqued at my disagreeable situation, and plainly perceived her two companions thought too little of her charms, was for putting them in immediate execution; but from what she had seen of me, she was apprehensive for her own honour, which she went to loose, without gaining any thing; for she knew not if the new *Aurora*, by her charms, could exert strength enough in favour

vour of the new *Tithonus* *, to have insured her success from a state of debility she had not brought him to.

She gave me a lascivious smile to attempt the enterprize, which I returned; and on examining my eyes, she was surpris'd to find they presaged my returning vigour. She then drank to the Goddess of Youth, and pronounced a few mysterious words, which, accompanied with some magick movements, soon shewed her her triumph.—They were obliged, for all their little jealousies, to give her the great merit she deserved; and acknowledged, that the flower she had made disband was her own right, and that she had every right to make it into a nosegay to put on the side of her.

We retired from table to the garden, when after a few turns we came back to play a pool at quadrille. The President was in high luck,

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and

* We all know the fable of *Tithonus* and *Aurora*, and no one can be ignorant of the gallant style in which M. De Moncrif has treated it in his *Rajonnement Inutile*, *The Useless Restoration of Youth*.

and won all he played for; Rozette was quite *outré*;—'tis not at cards that she plays a good game.—She frequently repeated she had done some mortal sin, for she had not had a black ace; though, according to the rules laid down, which are invariable with the ladies, she would now and then cheat a little. Argentine, whom I taught, imitated the rest: the President perceived it, and laughed in his sleeve; he knows as well as we do, that all the women cheat at cards; and, though they would be honest, they have so imbibed it from their cradles, that habit prevents their good intentions.—Our supper was delicate, and deliciously dressed; which greatly pleased the President: many compliments were paid to his taste, which were highly flattering to his vanity.

We were much indebted to a natural envy between Rozette and Argentine for our amusement; as they each endeavoured to eclipse the other in the choice of their songs, which occasioned every song to rise in superior excellence. Laurette pushed about the glats, and

and made joy circulate even through the dulness of them.—There must be an end to every thing; nay, even of pleasure and folly. The President became thoughtful; Laurette made him accompany her in the garden to divert his attention: such a guide was truly proper to mislead him. They apparently went astray from the walk, and fell among the briars; for we remarked, that the rose-trees had torn the gown of her who we imagined did not go out to count the stars.

I did not succeed in engaging Rozette to go with me: she knew I had received from her a restoration of my youthful vigour, and would not let me be remiss in her good deeds.—What does not a generous-born heart suffer before it be deprived, though for a time only, the means of recognizing its gratitude?

Our supper finished, we got into our carriage. The President had recovered from his vapours, was in spirits, and said many good things, which generally abound in witticisms.

We had scarcely seated ourselves when we were alarmed by a great noise occasioned by the arrival of ten persons: they called to the President by his name, and asked him for his protection. I put my head out of the coach-door; the President did the same.—Ah, Sir! cried an old man with broken accents, here's my wife—(from what I could discern from the lights of our lanterns, she was a fat, ugly, red-faced woman)—and I, who throw ourselves on your known justice; our law-suit is to come to a hearing to-morrow.—He was going on with a long detail of the affair, and all his companions were for joining him in his petition; when the President angrily demanded what in the devil brought them there for him?—We ask your pardon, echoed through the whole group; we recognized you in the garden; and we got into the granary, that we might have the honour of seeing and presenting you an hasty address.—The Nestor of the village was continuing in this strain, when the President hastily interrupted his asking for protection, by assuring him of it, and ordering

ordering the coachman to drive on.—Heavens bless and preserve you! was echoed by them all: the whole village caught the vibrating sound, and repeated them in concert for a quarter of an hour.—The devil take you all, was the President's answer; is not this a fine time they chose for me to hear causes? Chicanery has discovered us in a place where I should be sorry to be ever met by Justice.

Argentine was seated on my knees; Rozette had established me in my ancient rights; and from my present position she could easily see them: she was on my side, and watched my conversation. Argentine, although she pretended so much regard for Rozette, was very mischievous, and was not content at having ravished from her rival that which belonged to her in her feudal right.

The sable curtain which already had overspread the canopy of heaven, prevented a disclosure of what was passing between Laurette and my friend; therefore I shall be as silent.

as their shades. At length we alighted at the house of one of our companions, where they all took up one abode for that evening. After seeing them put to bed, and a little superficial playing, we wished them *verbally* a very good night, and went home. In taking a parting kiss from Rozette, I made her promise to receive me with her usual complaisance when I called the next day.

For four days I saw nothing of the President. What happened during that interval to me, forms no small part of these Memoirs; and without being romantic, they are as singular as any adventures of the kind.

Whenever I reflect on Rozette, I cannot conceive how it is possible from inclination to love a woman whose situation like her's compels her to give herself up to the first who offers themselves for conquest: nor can I, from the same motive, understand, what induces a woman of character to attach herself to a young man, who undoubtedly looks to nothing

nothing else but flying from conquest to conquest; yet we seldom find they give merit the preference. The heart of man is blind; he feels it, and knows it wants a conductor; he goes in search of Love, who is equally blind with himself, and the consequence is, they both fall into an unfathomable precipice.

When I got home, I felt fatigued. I went to sleep, filled with ideas of Rozette, the most pleasant to imagination, only to wake with the same stronger imprinted on my mind. My first care was to send my solicitous enquiries after her health, in which I did very wrong; for as I sent it by a servant whose fidelity I had not tried, I found from sad experience he occasioned afterwards the confinement of my new friend, and plunged me into several disagreeable embarrassments. However, her answer was, that she was in perfect health, and waited my attendance with great impatience, but on condition that I was as prudent as when I came out of the coach with Argentine; for as she had no idea of my im-

prudence in sending a servant whose fidelity I could not rely on, she used no reserve with him in the answer to me. La Fleur delivered me word for word the message of Rozette : during the time he was on my business to the mistress, he was accelerating his own with her servant ; which in the end brought me to a very unpleasant situation. You will learn from the sequel the trick he played me ; how he was taken in the very fact, and carried to a prison, where he remained upwards of two years. — Our servants are always our spies ; 'tis sometimes necessary to become their's.

Delighted with the answer I received from Rozette, I ordered my carriage to carry me to the Luxembourg, dispatched my attendants, and got into a sedan chair, was set down at Rozette's, where I perceived her at the window, waiting my coming. She immediately flew to meet me ; which made so sensible an impression on my mind, that I could not help observing how every seeming exertion in our favour from the object of our love,

though

though ever so trifling in its nature, calls up in us ideas the most favourable to the persons who so exert themselves. The art of pleasing, inforced by the actions of a handsome woman, has a divine correspondence with the heart of a young man.—Rozette's dress was negligently elegant, which, from the want of a pin, gave a transient display of all the charms of the most beautiful bosom in nature: on which I threw myself in transport, and embraced it with enthusiastic love. We were lost for a moment in silence; but only to revive with glowing ardour fresh instances of my love. I overwhelmed her whole frame with innumerable kisses; which, from the apparent satisfaction they gave her, overpaid my most sanguine wishes. After toying some time in this soft dalliance, she called the cook, and ordered dinner with exactness to time, &c.

During this preparation we renewed our fondness; I seated my lovely friend on my knees; my eager hands were for taking liberties, whose ardour she suddenly stopped.—

You

You will fatigue yourself, my dear friend—be wise; or your *fire*, like that of other young men, will go off like the flash of a pistol, and die away in smoke. Be more moderate, my love: you will shortly want those transports of passion.—Her gentle admonitions persuaded me she was right. I was quiet; and my complying obedience was recompensed by a kiss which made me wish for the promised hour of the completion of my happiness. Our situation was critical and curious; somewhat like that, my dear Marquis, at the time we were working in Du Mouche's * fencing-school.—Suppose Rozette the master, and I the scholar.

With my *arms* always ready, I presented myself with a good grace, and advanced; but she parried all my *thrusts*;—sometimes she would let me slightly touch her neck, her arms, or her side. Tierce, quart, or second, she was for all, and at all; and laughing,

* A famous fencing-master in the street leading to the playhouse.

prevented all the feints of my eyes. She would then break my *measure*, turn quickly to parrying again, and more than once *disarmed* me. Never could I hit the *spot* where I had fixed my triumph. I gave up, quite fatigued with the assault; in which I had been a great loser, without her *gaining any thing from me*. This is what we call fighting in safety; none but children and cowards can lack of amusement.

We seated ourselves at table; I felt very much piqued with her, and was twenty times very near going to leave her. I attributed her want of complaisance to a dislike to me, and thought she despised me—I began to hate and detest her, when she looked at me with eyes that rekindled my most ardent love for her. I could not sit long at table; for I had planned a design which I was determined to execute; and, like a curious traveller, was not to be put out of my road, for fear of the obstacles I might find in the passage.

Rozette knew the route of my journey, had seen my finger on the spot where I was going to : she was determined to give me some opposition in my passage thither ; and without letting me know, had sent for one of her female friends, who had hitherto always been her second in such similar rencountres. I believe she is the first instance in which one woman sent for another to be a partaker of the good fortune which awaited her.

We went into the chamber ; Rozette led the way. We were entering on explanations ; a glass, which stood opposite, by shewing our diversifying attitudes, rendered her still more lovely than ever, by doubling the perspective. One of her hands encircled my neck, her head inclining toward my breast ; in her other hand she held what she had hitherto feared : my wanton hands were indiscriminately employed in procuring themselves the most lascivious amusement, which I am not permitted to describe here.——You have seen, my dear friend, the picture of Coipel's, where
he

he has painted a nymph reclined on a bed of flowers before Jupiter, and pleased with directing his *thunder*? We were an exact copy of that excellent masterpiece of art. I was in such an agreeable situation that I never wished to have altered it: she was so voluptuous, that she made me feel the full force of the lasciviousness of my position. I asked a *favour*, and she refused me; I would have ravished it; but she disputed my victory. I had nearly triumphed; when Mademoiselle De Norville came in: Rozette immediately raising her voice, said, If you are not wise, I shall be angry in my turn.—I, from politeness, was obliged to rise and desist; on which she stole away, and locked the door, leaving me in the room (in my dishabile, which announced what I would be at) with the new comer. I was somewhat surprised; but Mademoiselle Norville begged I would not be under any apprehension on her arrival; as she meant not to disturb my being at my ease; which is not the situation one always feels in when with people they know not. I was touched

touched by the melody of her tone of voice ; I directed my eyes toward her, and discovered one of the handsomest brunettes in all Paris.—The disorder of my dress presented to her the *subject* of her conversation ; she caught it, and assuming the woman of spirit to my advantage, she felicitated me on what I had undoubtedly transacted with Rozette. Her sincere, though somewhat ambiguous, yet pleasing and ironical conversation, put me in an undescribable embarrassment to explain circumstances ; for, as she continued speaking, I was under the necessity of answering her.—One is not always courageous when we have any thing on our mind. I was no longer in a state of lying : my answers were additional proofs of my weakness : I felt them myself. There are certain critical moments when the greatest warriors make wry faces. Insensibly our conversation led to that which had like to have come to pass : my eyes fixed on the attractive allurements of my new nymph, and her looks stedfastly rivetted on a *part* which
was

was still extremely respectful. She assured me, after some previous conversation, that she could not conceive what could be Rozette's motive for acting as she had done; nor what she could derive from displeasing a man of gallantry, whose figure alone was sufficient to disarm the most cruel combination of ideas, and which undoubtedly the presage of so good a countenance as mine ought to have done. Mademoiselle De Norville was well dressed, and couched her conversation with a deal of wit and art, which joined to her charms, failed not to captivate my admiration. The praises she bestowed on me were chiefly levelled on a *subject* in which all the world are desirous of excelling. In giving me the character of her friend Rozette, which she did by way of conversation, she was so nicely critical as to arrive nearly to satire. She could not help telling me, she said, that by being so near me, in so critical a situation, if her weakness would admit it, she would, from the certain hope of pleasure, yield up her obeisance; for the glory of being inexorable is no ways equal to
the

the inward satisfaction of yielding up to such an one as myself. Meanwhile she drew nearer me, and looking at my disordered dress, seriously said, Do, Sir, close up *that* which I have a glimpse of below; for you expose to me there a temptation which I must endeavour to hide myself, lest it should tempt me.—This roused in me a most pleasing desire in her favour; and from one thing to another, she put me quite beside myself. I easily take fire; for the most latent spark, when fanned by the soft delusive breath of Pleasure, easily re-kindles, and sets so combustible a composition as mine in a blaze, which consumes all indifferently that comes in its way. To be brief, Mademoiselle De Norville supplied the place of Rozette, and possessed nearly in me all the place hitherto occupied by her. I thought only of the sacrifice, and nothing as to the goddess: for be it to any god in the whole universe we are offering our vows, there is infinitely more pleasure in the *laying on the altar*, than in the godhead's acceptance of them.

Rozette

Rozette came in; Mademoiselle De Norville immediately left us without any ceremony.—What a pretty figure I then made to Rozette! who knew all that had happened, and had previously calculated the arrival of the eclipse. She was in one corner of the room, and I in another, without our daring to approach each other.—How should those moments arrive, when we should each of us be so entirely confounded!—She began with a thousand reproaches, accompanied with a severe though graceful air, and insinuating tone, which paints your errors without mentioning them. She desired I would have a retrospection to what had happened, and gave me a plain card for me to adjust my serious reflections on. She ceased with telling me, that women were great fools to think they could captivate the heart of inconstant man, whose sole aim was the gratification of his *lustful* pleasures.—Who could have relished this moral from her mouth? but the manner in which it was delivered excited afresh in me those

those same passions she so gracefully declaimed against.

From Morality to Pleasure there is but one small step. In the midst of all the advice which Rozette had been so prodigal with, I asked her if she would permit me the happiness of supping with her that evening. I then made her accept of a toilet-box adorned with gold. As she loves to tie the filken bands of Love, she readily accepted my present; and confessed, for all my infidelities, she always loved me.—A well-timed present never fails to soothe the most obdurate mind; and if the gods are to be bribed by them, why wonder at the sensibility of we poor mortals?

I left her with pain and went home, where I found my father, to whom I gave a detail of what I had not seen at the opera, and where I had not been, to the Thuilleries; and circumstantially informed him of several adventures which undoubtedly had not happened. In such situations it is necessary to assist
one's

one's self with things that have never come to pass. I told him I was indispenfibly engaged to fup in town at a houfe who he nor I knew not.—My father is truly good, and places implicit confidence in all that I fay; he is very partial to me, as being the laft fruit of his love with my mother, my birth having coft her life.—I ordered the coach to be with me at the Soubize coffeehoufe at one o'clock in the morning the lateft, I doubted not I fhould meet him; but there is no answering for what is to happen. I got into a hackney-coach; and for what motive I could not guefs, the fellow would not go: I was under the neceffity of coming to extremes with him; afterward he went on: his number was No. 71, letter X.—You'll not be furprised, my dear Marquis, at my happy-recollection of the number, as it will make fome conspicuous appearance in what follows. Paffing by a coffeehoufe, my number being odd, made feveral people loofe a large fum who were betting odd or even on the number of the firft coach that paffed: before they could fee the
number,

number, they were looking who it contained. The winners and losers both recollected the number and letter of the coach, and the person in it.—Thus, my dear friend, do the events of life often depend on the most untoward circumstances, which it is impossible in the long-run to prevent.

I arrived at Rozette's just as she was beginning to be impatient at my delay. She received me with ecstasy, occasioned either from my liberality to her, or from a friendship she had conceived for me. She wished me much to be at my ease, and insisted on my putting on my morning gown, which had been carried there; for that I then was in the land of freedom and liberty. She was dressed in her night-cap, the lace of which pressing her cheeks, gave her the most divine looks: a handkerchief politically covered her neck; but was put on with an air that asked me to misplace it: her gown was of celestial blue, and seemed wafted only by the zephyrs of Love.

Supper

Supper was not yet ready; we went into the bed-chamber; the bed curtains were drawn; the wax-tapers were so placed on the toilet as not to reflect their light all through the apartment; we got into the obscure part, and throwing myself in an elbow chair, I caught her in my arms, spoke to her in the most tender and languishing manner, which she answered by an uninterrupted number of kisses, and the most pleasing and delicate caresses; such as we deservy when we paint the doves of Venus.

After a short pause—You see, said she, I am going to grant you your pleasure.—You little libertine, said I, do not again send for Mademoiselle De Norville.—Oh, no! this is not a proper time now, I assure you; I had my reasons when I did it: different circumstances require different cares.—Thus talking and playing we gained the bed; I most gently and delicately laid her on it in my arms; when she said, If you are absolutely determined to come to extremes, bring close
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those two chairs—which I immediately did; when she put one leg on one, and the other leg on the other, and without deviating from modesty but by situation, she won me by a thousand enticing allurements.

My ardent hands had already put aside the veil which——Softly, my dear Counsellor, said she; give me those hands, and I will place them in a proper situation.—She then put them on two balls of alabaster, whose rotundity and firmness gave fresh vigour to all my nature; but with strict charge not to move them without permission; for she would herself arrange properly the nosegay I intended her; and encouraging me, gave the signal by a real agitation, as I thought, which drove me to hurry on the arrival of exquisite bliss, and which she seemingly helped. I acted from simplicity—sheer malice was perceptible in her whole conduct. Feeling myself a little fatigued, I could not avoid calling her cruel, barbarous, and new tormentor.—The frustrated pleasure flew from my approach.

And

She

She repeated, Cruel and barbarous! and promised me immediate punishment; directly caught hold of the nosegay I intended her— Since you insult me, into prison directly—and effectually conducted it thither; nor can I tell whether if from sorrow, or what other motive, but the prisoner had hardly entered, when he began to cry between the *two portches* of the gate.

We now learnt supper was ready, and without any further ceremony went to it. Our conversation was vague and desultory: when two persons like us, amuse themselves with talking on indifferent subjects, 'tis a sure sign that those they had passed were not so.

Supper over, I thought no more of returning to my carriage in waiting, or of my father who would expect me, nor in short of any one but Rozette, who I asked for a retreat for the remainder of the evening; which she allowed me, on my faithful promise of being wife. Did she not know very well that a young
 D 2 man

man cannot answer for himself with a pretty woman, when he is going to pass the evening with her? Rozette was now in high spirits, and committed a thousand little foolish tricks. At one instant she got on the chairs, and made me carry her on my shoulders; then she would vault from one chair to the other, in imitation of the rope-dancers; then lifting her coats to her knees, would cut capers, and desire I would admire her legs, which were undoubtedly ravishingly delightful; then strike from me to some distance, shew part of the most enchanting bosom, which she would then cover, and make a most elaborate description of what was hid, with a promise of my never profiting of it. Then again she would get the cat, and carry on a most pleasing and singular conversation with it; after which she got some cordials, which she would and would not drink, caught me in her arms, and fondled and caressed me like an infant. In short, she committed innumerable other follies; but they were all accompanied with such grace, and so well timed, that the most grave Platonist

tonist could not but have been pleased. By this time the bed was made, and the candles withdrawn—we retired, but not to sleep.—Think not, my dear Marquis, that I abandoned myself to the arms of Somnus.—No! I even surpassed in reality the grand description given by Petronicus of a most delicious night he says he passed: and because an honest man dared not boast of the one, is there a reason that he must be more than man to say he tasted the exquisite pleasures I experienced on the other?—All that art could invent was brought to our aid, assisted by Nature: our eagerness drove from us every obstacle that came in our way; nay, we even excluded the entrance of a rose leaf.

We got into conversation. Rozette, although she promised, no longer endeavoured to thwart my enterprize; but assisted in uniting to the attainment of the grand end, and endeavoured to conduct me to it through all its windings.

I perceived she was lost in the ecstacy of Pleasure, but that her faculties still remained; and that after having drained my ardor six times, she had not but superficially tasted of its *vivifying elixir*.——I could not glory of having obtained my desires, nor could I upbraid myself with not having enjoyed them; though the art of Rozette was my illusion; for she is a perfect magician in the art of Love.

Aurora had long announced the dawn of the new day, when Morpheus brought me some repose. When I awaked, I found a table elegantly spread: I dined with great appetite; the fatigue of the preceding night had drained me.——It often happens that a small walk is found more fatiguing than a long journey.

The afternoon passed in toying and playing: lovers are never tormented with melancholy; time flies with them—their pleasures revive, and are renewed.

My

My absence from home was the cause of much disquiet; particularly so, as an adventure not of the most pleasing nature had happened to a young man of family at a gaming table, and made them more apprehensive of some like consequence on my account. My absence was still more unaccountable, as I had never till then given room for any reproaches on that head.—A fond father fears every thing for a son who has never given before any just cause for fear.—He got a friend of his, who is fond of collecting news, and knows all the anecdotes of Paris, to make strict search after me; of which commission he very readily acquitted himself.—On his going to the coffeehouse which I had passed, he learnt that the coach No. 71. had drove most furiously by them, and they had seen a young man in it who seemed anxious to attain his destination; and although they could not describe me to him, still at all risks he was sure it must have been me, and told the same to my father, who was persuaded so too. Without any further delay, my father and

his friend went in search of No. 71, which they could not find; but they learnt it was gone for St. Claude, from whence it was not expected till the evening.—One embarrassment never comes alone, but is always attended by a long chain of inconveniencies. The only resource my father had, was to wait the return of the coach to the stables, which he found at last from the intelligence given him at the coach-office.

La Fleur was sent early in the morning in search of me, and was to produce me alive or dead, for which my father gave him a guinea. Suspecting where I was, and knowing who I was with, La Fleur gave himself no further concern; and he employed his time more to his mind, than in searching after me. Had he come to let me know, as he ought to have done, he would have saved my father and me much pain.

He at last made his appearance at Rogette's, when I asked him what brought him
hither;

hither; and if my father was uneasy at my absence? To all which he very readily replied; told me he had satisfied my father by telling him I was at home by four o'clock, and before ten I had received a pressing invitation from the Countess of Mornac, begging I would be there very early; and from what he had learnt from her valet, he supposed I should spend the day there, as there was to be a great supper, and much company expected; that my father dined with the President, as he was obliged to assist at the Grand Council, in a cause depending in which the court was concerned.

I placed implicit faith in all he said, and thought him the most valuable servant in the universe; gave him a guinea for his attention, told him to be at the garden gate at five o'clock in the morning, and that I would certainly be there. The rascal thanked me, offered some advice, and went instantaneously in search of my father. He had not uttered a single word of truth, for you have already

seen in what cruel and racking anxiety my father was for my return.——I have found a number of servants cunning, wicked, and liars, with all the necessary appendages for their situation; but I could never believe any one, without profit or expectation, could be so deceitful as this scoundrel!—Having met my father, he told him he did not precisely know where I was; but he could assure him I was with a girl of the town known by the name of Rozette; and that my extravagant passion for her would be my absolute ruin, as it was said I was going into some strange place then to marry her; and to confirm all which, he gave my father an exact description of Rozette.

My father immediately flew to the officer of the police, told him what had passed, and requested an arrest for the apprehending of me where-ever I was to be found, as also the woman that I was with. And now from the most tender father, he was so transported with anger as to breathe nothing but punishment

and

and vengeance to me; so much so, that the magistrate was astonished to find a sensible and grave man like him, so lost to himself; and could not avoid observing to him, That the steps he was going to take, would make some stir in the conversation of Paris, and which he would repent, in all likelihood, when too late; therefore to reflect, that the silenter the matter was kept the better, as the thing in itself at present was not of such importance as he conceived it; and that such hasty measures might carry it to greater extremities than he expected; that all he had to do was to endeavour to find me, and to prevent any further connection with the girl in future.

The magistrate, who is a man of solid understanding, is ever studious of rendering his fellow-citizens service; but all his good admonitions were thrown aside by my father, who was determined on having an arrest for the immediate apprehending Rozette, in case I should have endeavoured to have prevented the officer from taking her by main force.

The officer and he got into the carriage:— it was already past midnight, and the coach had not returned from St. Claude.—You may judge how impatient my father was.— The mean time La Fleur, without my knowledge, was spending his night and money with Rozette's chamber-maid.—How well the scoundrel filled his time!

After supper Rozette felt a heaviness of spirits, without being able to account for it.—How often the forebodings of the heart are followed by the facts themselves! and though I am not superstitious, still I must ever believe that we are often forewarned of what is to happen; and why not? since those who have piercing eyes, can discover the threatening clouds which ever precede a storm!—I did all in my power to divert her melancholy: insensibly her eyes were re-animated, and joy and pleasure dispaned through her whole soul. The blossoms which flower on the surface of Voluptuousness were precluded by a thousand delicious movements, all which
tended

tended to let me know I had fixed on the wrong spot for substantial bliss.——This world is a pilgrimage, which we must all make; our endeavour must be, to make our provisions last to the end of our career.——Without a thought of what was to happen, we had provided against it, and promised to reserve ourselves till the night, when I was not to be denied any thing. Rozette conducted me into a *vale* of never-ceasing pleasure, where the *avenues* were all strewn with *paradisaical flowers*, and where I was received for the first time with all due honours.

Ah, my dear Marquis, in what ecstasy of pleasure, and into what an abyss of voluptuousness was I plunged! from having too exquisite a sensation, I felt nothing; and dying in prolific delight, was only revived to die again! The dear Rozette partook of all my pleasure; and full of tenderness, approached her beautiful mouth to catch my dying sighs, suffering none to escape her. I now felt with additional force how highly I was recompensed

led for all my attentions to her.—Love applauded our union, and was pleased that two souls were so reciprocally united.

Our repast had restored, in some measure, the strength we had lost: we were cautious with our champagne; and, that sensuality might not be a sufferer, we pledged her with some cordials proper to guard against the temptations of sleep. We passed some time at the window in preparative attitudes to a night of pleasure. Rozette, feigning a wish for sleep, went to her toilet, and was attired as a victim to Venus; adorning herself with the bandages of Cupid: she had previously plunged into a perfumed wave, sacred and propitious only to the rites of Love; she then retired to an alcove, where there was an altar made of myrrh, on which were placed several silken cushions. On one end of the altar was rolled a coverlid of beautiful fine linen, with rose-coloured silk festoons, tied with true lovers' knots, which seemed to invite one to cover with it a certain ceremony. With a
light

light I approached the altar; Rozette was already on it; her hands were joined as in supplication, her eyes were closed, and her mouth, half open, seemed to ask an offering: a natural bloom was on her cheeks, and gentle zephyrs had wafted a serenity on her whole form. A transparent muslin covered half her neck; the other half was discovered in the most inviting position for the most pleasing examination; yet from the idea of part being covered, it became more pleasing through its transparency. Her arms discovered their natural beauties and whiteness; but her closed legs robbed me of what I most wished to see, yet furnished my wandering imagination with the ideal prospect of a most pleasant valley. She was sleeping in the most easy and voluptuous position conceivable.—I retreated to examine my good fortune; and advancing with the greatest respect laid my offering on the altar. The gods were propitious to my most sanguine wish—the victim gave additional force and courage to the sacrificer.

The

The coach No. 71. at last arrived ; they did not give him time to take off his horses ; but immediately took him into a room, where they interrogated him, and so frightened him that he was incapable of answering them a single question ; and as he had been executing his actual business, he was intollerably drunk.

My father had some coffee brought, made him drink several cups, and at last got from him, that he had carried a gentleman dressed in black to the Fauxbourg in St. Germain street. My father immediately made him get into the carriage with the Exempt and Commissary, and ordered a troop of horse to follow ; as he had the magistrate of the police's positive orders for to be implicitly obeyed ; besides which, his own post of President gave him additional authority. They arrived at Vandeuil, the King's riding-master's academy, according to the coachman's directions ; but he could not point out the house ; when after various vain researches he conducted

ducted them to some small houses; where they met the same success. After severalrodomontade researches, he avowedly gave up a recollection of the street; but nevertheless he had some distant idea of its being near the playhouse; where their ill-humour at the several disappointments suffered them to be tacitly carried.—He recollected the door, which was that of a coffeehouse well known from the number of its idle frequenters. After several times knocking, the door was opened by a servant, of whom they immediately demanded, in the King's name, where Mr. De Themidore was. The affrightened servant swore most solemnly, that no such person had been there. They went up stairs, and made a thorough search, alarming the whole house; when they perceived in the garret a glimmering light through the cranks of the wainscot, which they burst open, when they found approaching toward them a tall thin pale man in a night-gown, with a horrid night-cap on his head, and a lantern in his hand,

hand, looking more like a spectre than an inhabitant of this world. On their entering into his room they could find nothing else but a few sheets of music, a sword unsheathed, some new novels, and the Life of Monsieur De Turenne. The inhabitant of this aerial cave was much terrified, and excited commiseration : my father gave him on his departure half-a-guinea, begging his pardon for this intrusion. I believe this may be reckoned the first instance when the gentlemen of the robe ever brought money for the relief of distress. The Commissary, of whom I learnt the foregoing, and what further relates to my discovery, assured me he was witness of such scenes, out of the belief of nature, of the Cytherean order, as would form the most whimsical relation. At length they found the person the coachman had led them in search of, and whom they supposed would prove to be me : He was a poet, author of the tragedy of Pantapouff, who had been that day to present an epithalamium to an under-farmer of the King's lands, on the death of his monkey,

and

and was in the most violent agitation at seeing a set of people visiting his Parnassian goddess, whose very profession is absolute war with the muses.

My father was seriously enraged with the coachman, and threatened him with his power;—he was sure he was leagued with me in not making a discovery; which after disavowing, and several interrogatories, they learnt that he had only drove the coach No. 71. within this day or two; and if they had explained themselves, he would have told them so; that he knew the man who had drove it these six months past, who lived in the small town, and was at present ill from a beating he received from an officer, who would have acted better, if he had given it to the Pandours belonging to the Queen of Hungary. —He however directed them to his comrade; but they obliged him to go with them. —Did not they give themselves an infinity of trouble to disturb a young man in his pleasures? —The right coachman was at last discovered;

covered; but on their going to him, they found him still ill, with a large contusion on his head, and very much bruised. On their appearance, he set up the most pitiful cries; however, he answered their questions very minutely: he had sufficient reason to remember me, and gave my exact description, not omitting to mention the two slaps in the face with which I rewarded his insolence. He readily directed them where to find me, whether they immediately went; and the streets being quite empty and quiet, the Commissary addressed himself to the French guard who was sentinel, and asked him, If he did not know Mademoiselle Rozette. The guard was resolute, and half laughing and half angry, asked for a personal description of who they wanted; which on their giving him, She must be very pretty, said he; but I am your very humble servant, gentlemen; I know neither Rose, nor Rozette, since I find you want to possess her charms.—These men are known to be the protectors of all women of a certain class;

class ; which, if it does not redound much to their reputation, it does to their honour.

Knocking at every door, they at last came to a ready-furnished lodging-house. The master, trembling, came to open the door to them, and protested the only person that lived there was a girl entirely free from scandal, and that she passed amongst the neighbours for a devotee. Independent of all these protestations, the Commissary went in, and in an instant forced open the chamber-door ; those who were within being too tardy in their attempts to open it. On seeing nobody, they went to the bed immediately, but were likewise disappointed ; and, perceiving the window open, doubted not but they had made that a means of their escape : which notion was confirmed by a noise they heard on the leaves of an arbour that joined the wall. On their approach to the window, they discovered a man in his shirt and night-cap, earnestly endeavouring to rid himself of the faggots in the midst of which he had fallen. The

Excerpt,

Exempt, being a very alert man, made his best way to the garden, with a light; and, perceiving this said figure in a very immodest situation, called to the troop of horse to come and see a dwarf tree, which produced very pleasant wild fruit: during which my father had been looking at the girl, and, from the description he had had of Rozette's person, was convinced it could not be her; as she was very handsome, and this was a little monster with blear eyes and fallow complexion.

The visit to this chamber was soon expedited. In their research round the room, they found, in a cloaths-press, a large uncombed wig and night-cloaths of a man, much broken at the elbows: at the same time, one of the troop took from under the bolster a number of things, among which was a long schoolmaster's whip. You may easily perceive, my dear Marquis, that this was a school of love, and that the pretty fair one was a scholar, whose preceptor was master of a boarding-school in the neighbourhood,
and

and was called Mr. Damon, the man at whose house you and I lived, who was perpetually crying against the sex, and who so often whipped us for nothing. The poor fellow was brought into their full presence: I declare I could not refrain laughing, when the Commissary repeated to me the contortions and debasement of this new Adam, in attempting to recover his honour; that of the most honest man could not have exceeded it, on a similar occasion. He occupied no great place in the world, for he was nearly in a state of nature, only with a very short shirt, and would have been highly satisfied if he could have profited by the fig-leaves which were of such essential service to our primitive parents.

My father would not suffer them to delay giving him his cloaths; and he gave him a severe reprimand, which he repeated with double energy to the Exempt, who had made free to give his posteriors a few fraternal strokes with the discipline; which, perhaps,

was

was only a repetition of what he had already received.

This scene over, my father asked this pretty devotee if she could not inform him where to find Rozette. The sisterhood, ever envious of, and ready to serve each other, with all the malignity of their natures, not only directed my father where to find, but offered to conduct him there herself; painting her in the blackest colours envy and detraction could suggest. My father accepted her offer. However, her tears have nearly compensated for her past misconduct, as I have ever since had her in confinement; but my vengeance shall be revenged and satiated with her contrition, ere I give her her liberty.

Aurora had already mounted her purple car, with azure steeds, and unlocked the gates of day—the feathered choiristers had tuned their melodious notes in natural concert—and Rozette, devoid of trouble, had with security and calmness sunk into my arms in the most profound

profound sleep, in which the fatigues of a night of voluptuous pleasure were to be recompensed with balmy repose.

You cannot expect, my dear Marquis, I should give you a description of the night; conceive it beyond the powers of description, and you will not wrong it. A thousand times did I expire in the most exquisite transports of delight, and revived again; and a thousand times did I die, only to be recalled again. Never did I feel a more sincere fervour; my adoration extended to every part of my divinity; every thing she possessed was a fit subject for my elogium and offerings. Every thing from me was received by her with all the fervency and ardour of love, and recompensed with a delicious favour.

Transported into the regions of fancy and enjoyment, we changed posts; she became the *sacrificer*, and I the *offering*: I nearly felt the satisfaction of being *sacrificed*, and only wanted the *sacred knife* to pierce the *flank*, to

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prove

prove I was a *victim*. We were motionless, and fixed; and had we consummated our entire lives in such delicious luxuriancy, it would but have appeared the shortest moment of our existence. How frequently, when immersed in such exquisite pleasure, did I forget my existence! and how often wish to be annihilated in the enjoyment of such voluptuous sensations! Why has Nature put such narrow bounds to our strength, and so enlarged our desires? or wherefore do they not join in unison, and not controvert each other?

We were exhausted with fatigue, and were for putting an end to our transports: her lips were glued to mine, and the organs of our voice, embracing each other, were so deliciously employed, as not to vibrate the smallest sounds to our ears.

In this position did we await sleep, which crowned our expectations. We slept; Voluptuousness was between us; but Vengeance was awake, and determined to make us feel,
with

THE MIDORE.

87

with redoubled rigour, all her horrors; just when the god of dreams had sent, on the wings of Love, the most happy continuation of ideas; but which were disturbed by the worst of noises, and convinced me of my visionary delusion.

My father, the Commissary, the Ekempt, and several of the troop had entered the house, and enquired who was with Rozette; when, from the portrait the servant drew of me, and the circumstance of being with her two days, they were sure their search was at an end.— Rozette's maid came into our chamber with the alarm; frightened with the violent knocking and menaces she heard, had opened the door to a number of men, who came into our room, with many lights. Rozette was seized with fear, and was lost to herself; but being in the arms of her lover, soon recovered. I sat up in my bed, and seized my two pistols, which I always carry with me when on parties, and waited in readiness the appearance of some of them. Could I conceive my fa-

ther would be one?—After placing guards at the doors of the bed-chambers, and on the stair-case, the Commissary and the Exempt were coming forward; but on seeing me armed and determined, they retired: but my father came, and, in a resolute voice, asked, What I did there? It was for two days, he said, I had driven him to despair;—and advancing to me, took away my pistols, and ordered the troop of horse to their duty. The bed-curtains were instantly drawn, and discovered the beautiful Rozette in a faint, from which she was recovered with difficulty: her first attention was for me. When she asked for succour which it was not then in my power to give, she then asked what they were going to do with her.—My father harshly answered, That her destination was in that order, which he shewed her. Overwhelmed with pain, a torrent of tears came streaming from her beautiful eyes, which rendered her still more fascinating than ever, and touched all the bystanders who knew not on what they were come. She flung herself on her knees to my father

father—clung to his, to obtain her forgiveness. I followed her example; but he, inflexible in his nature, turned away his head, and dryly ordered me to follow him.

The Commissary seized Rozette; she called on me in broken accents for assistance, to which I could only answer with sighs.—A child, however resolute he may be on other occasions, feels himself much enfeebled when in presence of his father exerting his right, and his unhappy mistress. Love then remains in inactive silence; and Nature makes him feel her full force, by calling up his duty.

We had already reached the stair-case, when one of the horsemen advised us to look in the bed of the chambermaid, where we discovered a human figure rolled up in the bed cloaths, which they soon forced him from: they asked him his name, and what he was. By this time we had got to the room.—Guess my surprise on seeing the scoundrel of La Fleur! I had already forgot all my chagrin; and in

my passion would have murdered him, had they not prevented me. I related then that it was through that scoundrel's means all this had happened.—They immediately seized him, and dragged him to prison, where he shall amply expiate all his past crimes.

The Exempt and guard conducted Rozette to the convent of St. Pelagie, and were highly satisfied by my father's generosity to them. The Commissary got into the carriage with my father and me—we set him down in our way home.

When I reached home, I found all the servants assembled in the hall, waiting with great anxiety for my return. Joy seemed to expand on every countenance on my approach.—I really believe very sincerely they felt real happiness at my being missed; as I have always made it an invariable principle to treat those of my inferiors with great humanity.

Overpowered by weakness and sorrow, I
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immediately retired to my chamber, and threw myself on my bed, where I fell into a very disturbed slumber, continually thinking of Rozette.—A mistress, when happy, enflames and transports her lover, and renders herself so too: but when unfortunate and unhappy, and that, in some measure, owing to him, she then becomes more dear and adorable than ever.

The latter Part of these Memoirs will relate to you, at large, my dear Marquis, the sufferings of my poor dear Rozette. The relation of her sufferings caused my poor heart the most severe anguish.

After having passed some time in the most disagreeable slumbers, I got up and endeavoured to find the means of relieving my dear girl.

The sun had already passed the meridian two whole hours: dinner was announced—my not appearing, brought my father's friend the newsmonger to my chamber, who, after

paying me a most fulsome compliment on my return, informed me with supercilious joy, that he was the principal to whom my discovery was owing. Mayhap he was ignorant of all the pain he had occasioned; but some people cannot desist from talking; and would rather say the most glaring absurdities than be silent: they always speak what comes uppermost, but never think or reflect on what they are going to say.—I looked at him with scornful disdain; he endeavoured to get me to go down to dine; but his persuasion came with such bad grace, that he shocked my imagination; and it was with great difficulty I kept my hasty temper from coming to extremes with his chivalry: he was judicious in retiring so quickly; for my misfortunes called loudly for revenge; and had it fallen on him, it would have crushed him; for, from my then disposition, it would not have been the most gentle. This man is called Mr. Dorville; he is of an ancient family, who have long served in the army; from which he retired, if not with honour, with great profit.

fit. He is one of those honourable parasites who is everywhere at home; his only merit is in knowing the news in circulation; which he will repeat as frequent as desired, and just like a repeating watch, which will strike as often as you chuse to make him. He does not possess spirit enough to do a good action, nor malice sufficient to do knowingly a bad one. He has been some time married—he is very jealous: no one ever sees his wife, as he never suffers her to go into company; and none of his friends know where he lives—his address is at the coffee-house at the Palais Royal.

I was repeatedly called, at my father's instigation, to dinner; but I continued inflexible, and lent a deaf ear to their repeated importunities. They at length sent me up some dinner: though melancholy, I ate some of it.—The voice of Hunger never fails to make you answer his suit, when aliment is to be procured.

Meanwhile I had wrote the most tender and passionate letter to Rozette; in the most pointed and ardent terms assured her of my sincere love, and how much I lamented the unhappiness my unlucky stars had plunged her into. I encouraged her to hope for the best, told her she might rely on my exertions towards her liberation from the captivity they had so cruelly carried her to: I concluded entreating her to love and not despise me as the principal of all her misfortunes, and praying her acceptance of ten guineas for the destroying the necessaries she might stand in need of, to render her abode as comfortable as possible; and though I couched this letter in the most simple language, it was touching to a feeling heart, particularly when under misfortunes; as it is ever more softened under such circumstances. Love dictated it—the sentiments were such as the god himself would not have disavowed.

The letter was wrote, and laying on the table; but the means of conveance were now
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racking my imagination. I could not think of a person whom I could trust: La Fleur's perfidy made me suspect every body, and determined me to send to the President; who, you know, my dear Marquis, is a man of pleasure, but capable of giving good advice; and though he may plunge you into gallantries, he is a complete master in the art of extricating you from them. I accordingly wrote him to call immediately on me, if convenient; as I wished much to communicate an affair of importance; which I sent directly by one of my father's coachmen.

The President not being at home, the letter was given to his trusty valet La Verdure, who, on understanding it was from me, and judging Rozette might be the subject, immediately came to know my commands with his master. I was highly delighted with his coming, as he is a servant on whom I could depend and rely on. Such a servant at this is invaluable:—happy should I have been to have found such a one in La Fleur,—I told

him all that had passed; and he, without hesitation, entered minutely into the criticalness of my situation, and gave me some hopes of conveying the letter I told him I had wrote for Rozette, till I told him she was confined at St. Pelagie; which for an instant quite disconcerted him, and again threw me in a state of stupefaction; however, La Verdure, after a few turns up and down the room, told me he would attempt the conveyance of it; and that by eight o'clock in the evening he would speak as to the certainty of it. I was again elate with joy, and was for giving him the last ten guineas I then had; but he only took the letter, telling me the money was not then necessary, as he would advance what was proper, and was content to receive as a gratuity, in part for the expences of his commission, what I had given him; when he left me divided between hope and fear.

Do not be surprised, my dear friend, at my strong and violent attachment for a mistress of so few days standing! Suffice it that I say
I loved

I loved her, and still continue so to do. Love, you know, is always in extremes. Were she less dear to me, my vanity would not suffer her to be taken from me with less obstinacy : —then surely it is a duty incumbent on me not to abandon her, because she is in fact a woman of pleasure. She is beautiful, and owes her present misfortunes to her exertions to procure me the most ardent pleasure.

The rumour of my adventure soon spread; the noise it made afforded conversation to all who came that day to my father's. Every one had a something to say : several old dowagers did not spare me, among whom was the young widow Madame de Dorigny, who was foremost in the satire. I was for explaining matters to her, but she through scruple refused hearing me.

Women in general are incomprehensible ; they are frequently shocked that we should obtain favours from others of their sex, that they have refused to grant, though repeatedly impor-

importuned by us to resign them.—However, I found means of making myself ample compensation from the confusion I threw them into; for after dinner several of my friends came to visit me; visits which I could have well dispensed with; as they were either made from malice or curiosity; all of them seeming desirous of knowing the particulars of my affair from myself, or of enjoying my misfortunes in my presence. I received them with much indifference, and little politeness, determined to be revenged on them. My father was of the party, and very opportunely left the room just as my indignation against him was transporting me beyond the bounds of prudence and respect.

They at last left me; and in the situation I then felt myself, I was resolved by some out-of-the-way act to drive my father to desperation. So that I vexed him, I was careless of giving myself pain, which is not my natural disposition, as I have not a wicked heart. Chance, however, brought me what I wished,

I wished, without committing my intended rashness, and was the cause of procuring me much pleasure; which I can assure my dear Marquis I shall be longer in relating than I was in executing.

On hearing a coach stop at the door, I immediately flew to the window, and perceived it was one of those that had brought me into so much trouble by the discovery of the No. 71. This, however, proved the harbinger of better fortune; and ever since my disgrace, I shall never see one of those carriages, without strictly examining the number and letter, which are perfectly fresh in my recollection: it was No. 71. letter B. Had I had the presence of mind to have examined this kind of emblem, I should have found it would have prognosticated my good fortune.—The knowledge of hackney coaches is a subject worthy the serious attention of the Academy of Sciences, and a good treatise on this subject would be equally useful with that on Time by Mathias Lausberg. This matter, at least, will

will afford equal subject for conjecture with the other.

I The servant behind the carriage having informed himself of our Swiss if his master was at home, handed out a lady dressed in black; and I directly conjectured she had come to solicit something of my father. Curiosity had taken wing: I was now on tip-toe to know who she was, what she wanted, but above all, if she was pretty; for my misfortunes had not taken away my original zest for pleasure.—She was conducted into a study where she was waiting my father's entrance. I descended, by another stair-case, into an adjoining room, and was in my night-gown and slippers: as the door stood a-jar, I had an opportunity of discovering all her beauties.—She appeared to be about twenty-six or twenty-eight years old, middling stature, brisk lively eyes, fine teeth, and a good clear brown complexion; with a physiognomy that indicated her capable of enjoying the pleasures of Love. She was negligently sitting on the sofa, and discovered

discovered a tolerable good leg: from the nature of her position, she displayed more natural grace than all the affectation of art could have endued her with. She seemed studious to call up all her winning graces, that she might have the greater effect on my father on his appearance.—She was wise to an old officer.

The whole sex love to please, and make it their study; yet all women are not coquettes. A coquette endeavours to please others; and those who love to be pleased, are not hard to be surprised; for if you endeavour to catch a nymph of this kind, you must quicken the affair, and you are sure of a surrender as a natural consequence. This, you will say, is the logic of a gallant man; but I can and will support it, better than that of Nicole or Crouzas.

Nothing excites the passions so soon as the examining the beauties of the sex, without their being anywise sensible thereof, and who

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at the same time are practising all the alluring arts in nature.—My impetuous temper had already caught fire; and as I was determined on an action worthy to be recorded by the god of Love, and wishing to revenge Rozette, I was deaf to the calls of propriety, and listened only to those of Nature. I sallied quickly out of the room into the other, with a seeming surprize at finding some one there, and made it an excuse for appearing before a lady in my dishabile, which she very politely answered. She then informed me who she was, and what was her business; that she had not come to lay any of her own cases before my father, and although born at Caen in France, she had never had a law-suit; but that she had come in the behalf of one of her sisters, who was then actually very ill, and the cause was likely to come to a hearing in a few days; though she had not the pleasure of being personally known to me, still I could not be ignorant who she was, when she said her husband was constantly at our house, and was Monsieur Dorville.

I looked at her stedfastly——Is it possible, said I, that that man should be your husband? he has played me the most scurvy trick conceivable, and is now my mortal enemy! I cannot doubt but you are his accomplice: I am determined, now an opportunity offers, to have full revenge;—and I immediately caught her in my arms, and threw her gently along the sofa. She endeavoured to call out for assistance. I told her she might expose herself, if she chose: it was what I much wished her to do; that all the world might know I was amply revenged on her husband.—I immediately drew my *poniard*, and *sheathed it in her*. She lost all recollection; and I, without reflecting the windows were open, and the noise the rustling of our cloaths made, might induce some one to observe us, continued the *fight, attacked, and triumphed*; nor do I think I advance too much when I say Madame Dorville was an assistant to my victory. I was now revenged of her husband: perhaps he would be highly pleased to be so well revenged himself?—Where is there a woman who
has

has not in the regulation of her household affairs, causes for being dissatisfied?

I came, attacked, pillaged, fired my pistol, and decamped, in a few minutes; and had retired to my chamber before she knew if I were still by her or not.

As no one had overheard us, Madame De Dorville had sufficient time to adjust the discomposure I had occasioned in her dress; for it was near an hour afterwards, before my father came to her. When I got to my chamber, I laughed like a madman, and passed near half an hour in recollecting and meditating on the circumstances of this adventure. My father had at last finished a long conference with Mr. Le Doux, who is his ordinary Confessor, and my honorary Director. This man, under pretence of charity, takes large sums of money from my father, for the poor; in which he classes himself, no doubt, as the first and greatest object. He came up to me, read to me a most noble
and

and disinterested moral, with all the benignity of his fraternity; my father waited on Madame Dorville, who presented herself to him with some trouble, occasioned by my adventure, which my father attributed to the necessary blushes attending a lady's requesting a favour from a man.

Every other woman, under those circumstances, would have felt equal embarrassment; for never was the completion of *desires* so precipitately attained before. If every woman was equally choice in the moments of gallant love, never would they be apprehensive for the safety of their honours; for it is the unnecessary time they lose, that ever causes a discovery.—She then disclosed to my father the motives of her visit; and, after a very long audience with him, he assured her he was not Judge in the cause, but that it belonged to the Court of Enquiry, of which I was a Member, and that she must apply to me.—My father accordingly sent for me; but I would not attend, till I received a positive

tive order from him, although they informed me it was to wait on a lady, who had a considerable law-suit; for I immediately thought Madame Dorville had discovered to my father my imprudence. My fire was now extinguished, and my spirit of resentment somewhat allayed. Where now, my dear Marquis, was all my boasted knowledge of the sex? Does ever a woman expose such an adventure? No: she inwardly applauds herself for her choice, and non-resistance; as she never can be led to expect a betrayer in him that gave her such delicious pleasure!—But, in truth, ought not we to know the attachment of the person to whom we would give our credentials?—Lucretia killed herself; but it was after the event had happened; and, perhaps, through despair of what she feared could not be re-commenced.

I at length entered, and bowed to Madame Dorville, as unconscious of ever having seen her; and she seemed equally strange to me, and explained her business with all conceivable ease:

ease: but on my father's leaving the room she broke out like a fury on me, and upbraided my boldness with all the energy of language;—reviled my assumption;—which brought tears in her eyes. Mere affectation! my dear Marquis; for I am too conversant in the arts of the sex to be so easily alarmed. It is a general remark, my good friend, that a woman is never so near ruin, as when she makes the greatest efforts to defend her virtue. I gave her her way, and never said a word, till she had exhausted all her complaints; when I said, She must attribute it entirely to her charms; which proved an happy expedient; as the flattering her vanity soothed her troubled breast, and my most solemn assurance of inviolable secrecy quite calmed all her trepidation of mind; and, from being looked on as a tyrant and invader, I was now esteemed her consolator, to whom she was to look to for advice. I re-established peace in the mind of Madame De Dorville: her eyes immediately declared it, and brought me conviction. Hannibal would

would certainly have been master of Rome, had he not suffered himself to be amused with the enchanting fascinations of Capua. She rose to depart; I offered my hand, to conduct her to the carriage; which she accepted; and, by the rapturous squeeze she gave it, I was led to understand that she was much less displeased than she appeared to be, and that my audaciousness would be pardoned again, if I was not imprudent enough to commit the fault with open doors and windows. I paid her a thousand compliments, and assured her I would interest myself in her good cause. After seeing her to the carriage, I took myself to my chamber, where I had left Monsieur Le Doux; who, during my absence, had been amusing himself in my book-case, where there were standing, on a shelf out of the way, several pots of sweetmeats, which I found had not escaped him. He spoke about them as being essentially necessary for him, as his profession drove him to see very many infirm and sick people: he did not, however, get them from me; for, on the

the subject of sweets and preserves, I have a soul equal to that of any ecclesiastic whatever. He was then displeased with many of my books, and friendly took the liberty of pointing them out; which brought on a controversy. He made no figure whatever in an argument, and freely confessed disputation was not his forte: but he could not desist from advising me to burn my miniatures and prints; and when I assured him my collection was worth upward of two hundred pounds, he said it was too considerable a sum to be consumed by me, and was for my immediate selling all my infamies, as he termed them, to some Counsellor, who has no soul to lose; which I promised him I would think about; and the Jansenist already thought me in the road to conviction.

We wandered from one subject to another, till at last my adventure became the topic. It is not surprising that this man should be curious, therefore I related to him the whole of what had passed; and I interested him so

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much

much, in behalf of Rozette's hardships, as to make him a principal instrument of procuring her liberty, and getting every thing I could wish from my father, as you will hereafter see. From what I have already advanced, do not prejudice yourself against him; for Monsieur Le Doux is, I assure you, a good man, and not a hypocrite—a character worthy of the imitation of all good ecclesiastics; but he is too easily deceived; he has all the minutie of his profession, without any of this intriguing secrets.

It was near eight o'clock before Monsieur Le Doux left me, when I fell into a train of the most unpleasant reflections. After walking several turns up and down the room in expectation of La Verdure, I went to the windows to watch his coming with the utmost anxiety, and in a situation of the most cruel impatience; when suddenly there came into my room a figure wrapped up in a camblet cloak, and, without speaking, threw a letter on the table, and herself on the sofa. I read the

the address, and recognized the hand-writing of Rozette, when I immediately opened it, and devoured its contents, which were enchanting.—I will give you a copy of it as soon as you have been made acquainted how I got it, how my commission had been executed, and who it was that came in in so extraordinary a manner.—This intrigue has been well conducted, and La Verdure has since assured me it was his master piece.

La Verdure being at a loss how to gain admittance into the convent of St. Pelagie, that he might execute his commission to Rozette, whimsically thought of assuming a female's habit. Nature, to be sure, had endued him with half the requisites; art could easily furnish the remainder, as they were not so essentially necessary. La Verdure is small made, weak voice, and altogether effeminate; but in his new attire he made a most singular figure. He hazarded much in this undertaking; but there are some things which one does for another, without any apprehension of

discovery, though, if risked for one's self, the fear attending it would be a grand objection to the completion of the project. On all critical occasions we generally form a better opinion of our friends' good fortune than we do of our own.

I will not give you, my dear Marquis, a description of La Verdure's dress, as it would not recompense the trouble the disposition of it would require. Still I was constrained to admire successively the strange assemblage of the whole; and although I was no ways inclinable to laugh, yet I found the most risible inclination in the collecting of my ideas. The cloak which he had on, nearly hid him; and which, from the continual rain we had that day, facilitated our stratagem: the badness of the weather was sufficient to have deterred the most sanguine from following their pursuits; but it seemed as if Nature was pleased with the project, and was determined to be propitious to its accomplishment.

La Verdure, immediately after his equipment, went to the convent; where, after undergoing a strict examination from the servant whose business it is to attend at the turning box, whose knowledge and care he deluded, he got admittance into the parlour of the Superior Abbess. After the first compliments were dispensed with, he modestly endeavoured to explain the subject of his visit, by informing her that he was mother to a young girl just come there by order of the King, and for her good, known by the name of Ronette; that he was highly pleased that Providence had at length placed her in an asylum of health; where, by dint of good example, he flattered himself she would return to the path of virtue, which she had too long wandered from;—that he was delighted to find, that a good disposition was obliged to come to repentance, from being in confinement;—and that he should have done her that piece of charity some months since, had it been in his power. In short, La Verdure played the parent so pathetically, that he won

the esteem of the Superior so as to entirely gain her to his purpose, without her being in the least conscious of what she was doing; and as our hero had the gift of producing tears at pleasure, he did not fail of commanding them on this occasion, which drew them likewise from the Lady Abbess. It is a well-known fact, that when one woman cries, the tears flow from the rest like a contagious distemper *ad infinitum*.—La Verdure, however, concluded his discourse by expressing a wish to speak with Rozette for an instant; for although she had been an imprudent girl, he nevertheless sincerely loved her, and did not despair of recovering her to the paths of honour; that he had brought her some consolation; and taking two guineas from his pocket, gave them to her; begging she would occasionally give one to Rozette, in such portions as she should find necessary; and that every month he would take care to make her a similar remittance. This piece of generosity had the desired effect: the Lady Abbess admired much the good heart of this pretended mother,

then, and paid him a very polite compliment. She assured him Rozette should be instantly sent to him, that she might profit by his good advice and bounty.

He, without thinking, had very nearly traduced himself by making the obeisance of a man instead of that of the sex which he perfonated. He was for improving on the present indecent custom of making those worldly reverences of the fair sex, which were never invented by any one but from the secret spring of libertinism.

During his attendance for Rozette, he was examining the prints in the parlour; as it is a general maxim of his, that idleness is the spring of all vice. The subjects of several of them proved very edifying to him: they were all proper pictures; but he could not help confessing, that though he is not over scrupulous, he was displeased to see the figures of naked men, beautifully and well proportioned, capable of exciting the most ravishing

prising ideas, which, though pictured under the form of angels, were sufficient to excite in the minds of all the inhabitants of the convent inclinations of a very worldly nature indeed.

The servant that had been sent to call Rozette, returned with her. Judge, my dear friend, how she must have appeared!—Still fatigued with the pleasures of a voluptuous night, overwhelmed in sorrows, and her eyes downed in tears so as to prevent her from barely opening them, she advanced very sorrowfully; and it was with great difficulty she could discover La Verdure through his disguise, and, though much surpris'd, could scarce refrain from laughing.

The servant, not knowing the motive of her strange behaviour, dryly told her, That a girl in her situation ought not to receive so coolly a fond parent who had the charity of coming and consoling her in her present situation.—A word was sufficient for Rozette to
under-

understand the drift of La Verdure's appearance; she immediately conceived the servant to be the echo of La Verdure's story for gaining admittance to her.

The idea of her being a captive, she confessed since to me, and that in presence of him who had seen her in all the splendour of affluence and good fortune, so forcibly struck her mind as to occasion a torrent of tears, which greatly relieved her from the embarrassment his presence threw her into. La Verdure, without any hesitation, began giving her a most pathetic and serious lecture on her past misconduct, which he painted in the most striking colours; after which he concluded, as most parents do, by softening his lecture, and giving her all the consolation in his power; telling her, he had some money for her, which the Lady Abbess had been so kind as to take charge of, and would take care to supply her necessary wants. He then gave her a guinea, and with it glided in her hand the letter from me, which she instantly con-

signed to her bosom. O that the writer could have been in its place!—La Verduze desired her to write by him to her father, who was now at Paris, and was satisfied with the situation Providence had placed her in, and hoped she would exert her endeavours to become a good girl. The servant went immediately for pen and paper; La Verduze took care to profit of her absence by delivering her the remainder of the money, and assuring her all our endeavours would be exerted in procuring her liberty. The long stay of the attendant gave her a sufficient opportunity to read my letter, and to hold a long conversation with La Verduze. At length she was provided with all the necessaries for writing; and after expressing great repugnance to his desire, sat down by a table, and expeditious an immediate answer to the letter, which she gave to La Verduze; who, having successfully executed his commission, left the convent, after giving the good sister a few cakes of chocolate for her very polite attention.—He was not long in reaching home.—I cannot but admire the

the spirit and presence of mind of this fellow: as I had nothing else at that juncture to give him, I overpowered him with thanks.

No doubt, my dear Marquis, but you are anxious to see Rozette's answer. I will now satisfy you by giving you a copy.

"I received your letter, my dear friend,
 "and acknowledge my sensibility of the
 "goodness of your heart.—Was it necessary
 "I should be unhappy for having adored a
 "man so truly deserving as yourself? I can-
 "not yet speak with any certainty of my pre-
 "sent situation; but I look to you as the
 "only means of my deliverance. La Ver-
 "dure is invaluable; he has delivered me
 "the money you sent. Adieu. I am going
 "to lament and weep over my misfortunes;
 "but shall eternally continue to love and
 "adore you. ROZETTE."

You cannot conceive, my dear Marquis, what an assemblage of unpleasant reflections

I gave myself up to, after the departure of La Verdure. I thought of nothing else but the means of her deliverance. Impenetrable clouds seemed to thicken upon every fresh idea, and nothing but the assurances of the intelligent La Verdure could give the least dawn of hope to any project.

They came to inform me supper was ready. On my going down, I found a large company, whom at another time I should have thought divinely charming; nay, in fact I have frequently hitherto thought so; and should have been highly entertained, if my soul had not been so taken up with a different object. Man would be too happy if he could dispose his mind according to its situation. Mine was far from being at its ease.

The President De Mondoville had just returned to town, and was one of the party: he knew nothing of my adventure; for there had been no opportunity to acquaint him with it, nor was the place very convenient for such
a con-

a conversation; his ignorance of which made him say several severities, which he otherwise would have avoided, though they were very justly founded: but they greatly heightened my indignation towards him, as he produced the laugh of the whole company at my expence, with additional lustre to his brilliant wit.

After supper, I drew Monsieur Le Doux aside, and begged he would call on me the next morning, as I had an affair of much importance to communicate to him; which he conceived to be some matter of conscience, or that I had become a convert to his morning's conversation. He assured me he would comply with my invitation. I promised to wait him with a cup of chocolate; which he was persuaded to accept of, on my assurance of its being better than he frequently drank.

The President retired to his chamber shortly after; when I took the opportunity to inform him of the particulars of my adventure. He begged

begged ten thousand pardons for the pain he must have unknowingly occasioned me, by amusing the company at my expence; that the only compensation he could make me, would be to exert his utmost to free Rozette; and, as I am sensible he has great weight with the Ministers, I was elate to find in what good hands I had entrusted my present mortification; when, after mutual thanks and assurances, we parted.

It was impossible for me to sleep; Rozette was continually in my imagination: to divert which, I got my prints, and took a general review of them; and according as they were in subject free and lascivious, so they brought fresh to my remembrance the situations which I had just so amorously passed with Rozette; which recollection served to shun, at least, the excruciating uneasiness I felt for her. At length, nature was wearied, and overpowered by sleep: I fell into its arms, with all the points spread on the surface of the bed.—I had frequently slept in the arms of the reality;

ty; but now illusion was only to be found in mine.

It was hardly seven o'clock, when the servant came to acquaint me that a servant of Monsieur Le Doux had come with a letter, which she must deliver to me. I gave instant orders for her admittance, which she carefully announced by the noise she made on her entrance, which made me lift up my head: and I quickly perceived, through the aperture of the curtains, a very pleasing and graceful countenance. I immediately got up, and slipped on my morning-gown: in doing of which, I had thrown off the bed several of the pictures, which the girl was gathering together; and, thinking herself unperceived, was gratifying her sensuality by cautiously examining them; which augured to me a requisition of allaying in her a desire the sight of such objects instantly excites: and, prepared as I was, I could not avoid allaying my utmost endeavours for its attainment: nay, it required no great degree of penetration

tion to perceive, that though her examination was so very rapid, yet they had made an agreeable impression on her. A mere trifle often produces our reigning passions, and a certain sign in the visage ever develops the inmost thoughts of the heart, however cautious it may be to conceal it. Nanette, for that was her name, made me a simple and graceful courtesy, delivering me, without affectation, her master's letter. I placed all my attention on her, not on the letter; I can assure you she was worthy of it.

Picture to yourself a fine, genteel, well-made girl, of the ordinary size—dark eyes and eyebrows, and fine teeth—a complexion which only wanted the assistance of a small portion of natural rouge to form it a perfect white and red—her breast, though hid, seemed to say, that it was capable of giving pleasure, and affording admiration.—Her head-dress and vestments were of equal simplicity with her looks—her age might be computed between twenty-eight and thirty years.—One
might

might be led to guess that nothing but situation and circumstances would induce her to refuse a parley.

I begged her to be seated while I read her master's note, which was to inform me how very mortified he was at not being able to be with me at nine o'clock, according to our appointment; for that he was under the most pressing necessity of attending a lady who had two days since solemnly renounced the vanities of this world, and was desirous of visiting the poor prisoners in the different gaols;—that between two and three o'clock he should be at leisure; when, as soon as he had taken his coffee, he would attend me.

I complimented Nanette on the pleasure she must feel from serving my particular friend, Monsieur Le Doux, who is a very honest and good man. She answered me, that he was the best of masters; and that, in three years that she had lived with him, she has ever had reason to praise his equanimity

imity of disposition and sweetness of temper: but, as she did not greatly enlarge in his panegyric, I concluded there could not be any very great intimacy between them. During the time I was endeavouring to discover if she was much attached to Monsieur Le Doux, I imperceptibly to myself was getting strongly attached to her; and, from one subject to another, I led the conversation to those matters which ever please the women, and at which they would endeavour to make us believe they blush—Flowers ever grow under the feet of those who tread that path, and there is always some one ready to gather them.

I had already closely approached this charming woman, and the natural heat of my composition made me attempt some freedoms, which she seemed not very anxious to prevent, nor too free to grant; owing, as I afterwards found, to a contest between Pride and Desire. I caught her hand, which I found white and beautifully formed—told her
she

she was charming, divine, and adorable—accompanied with a transient kiss, which was followed by a second, of a more lasting nature; but she endeavoured to avoid them as much as possible, and prevented its making the impression on her lips that I intended it should. The situation in which I was, excused the liberties I had taken; as it could never be supposed that a man in his morning-gown should have so much command of himself, and be so wise, as when he is attired in all the paraphernalia of magistracy. My ever-enterprising hands had already, by degrees, drawn aside the veil that hid from me undescrivable treasures; when she called me by my name, and reproached me with the little attention I shewed her when she was shopwoman at Mrs. Fanfreluche's. Well, said I, if it was you, then, my dear charmer, I must now make amends for all my past faults, by rendering you ample justice; which I effectively did, and embraced her with all the glowing ardour of an impassioned lover. She was, my dear friend, the companion of a little

the girl I had long since kept, and who I then loved to adoration, but who I had left, as well as many others, with all my youthful frolics. Two words of my past follies and intrigues gave me the liberty of enquiring into hers, and gave me a kind of undoubted right of judging of hers to my advantage; which I began to do; for her representations of her having become a devotee for three years past would not avail aught with me, for she only excited my increasing ardour from that same circumstance; as the three years of wisdom entirely freed me from any apprehension of danger, and endowed me with additional forces. I was no ways at a loss for the proper adjustments of her dress; for when that was to be the only protector of virtue, it was surely at my discretion; which Nanette's shortly became. I pressed her with all innate warmth; and, after pursuing what was proper in similar cases, I divested her of every other knowledge but that of the most exquisite *pleasure* and *delight*. In the heat of our mutual embraces, she made me judge,
by

by the infinity of her motions, that it could not be long since she had practised them with all their charming varities. Vain idea! ridiculous reflection! to suppose a necessity of practice for to perfect one in the school of Nature! My prints were still spread on the bed, and enjoyed a most lascivious spectacle: they joined their murmurs to a certain noise, occasioned by the practice of what they in general represented. Mrs. Nanette at length, free from my embraces, and being herself again, readily accommodated the adjustment of her dress which I had disturbed, and malignantly, though gracefully, was for taking her leave, when I promised her to see her frequently, as I should have much occasion for her protection. She retired with contentment in her eyes; but I am not proud enough to suppose I could have allayed, in so short a space of time, the thirst the abstinence of three long years had occasioned in her soul. —Am not I, my dear friend, a lad of a violent temper?—From one extreme to another.

ther; either dying with the spleen, or seeking constant opportunities of rejoicings.

I went to the palace, where I found the President; the audience over, the President and myself went to make a visit to Mrs. Laurette, who immediately on seeing me, began to laugh most heartily at my mishap with poor Rozette, and blamed me much for want of prudence; and, in a plaintive tone, mingled with pride, assured me she felt much for the misfortune of our pretty friend. She intreated us much to dine with her; and the air of her invitation, joined to her charms, would have proved irresistible, had not my fire been allayed in the morning. The President, though he did not from habit feel himself in my first position, yet from inclination he found himself in the second.

We went from thence to the jeweller's in St. Honoré Street; where, after looking at, examining, and purchasing a thousand bagatelles, without bringing home any, I returned

to wait the attendance of Monsieur Le Doux, who faithfully kept his appointment, and after greeting my father with a very short conversation, joined me in the garden; where, having read me a spiritual anecdote, and relating another or two, he asked me what was the subject with which I intended to honour him.—I told him I could not make him acquainted with it but in the presence of the President Mondorville, and that the carriage was waiting in the yard to conduct us thither, if agreeable to him.

We accordingly instantly got into the carriage: as my horses are used to go at an amazing great rate, Monsieur Le Doux, who seldom rides but in the carriages of old devotees, was alarmed at my speed, and begged I would order the man to drive slower, particularly as it would not be decent for him to be seen driving like a young man.

I can assure you I was much hurt in feeling several gentlemen, whose horses were not equal

equal to mine, driving at a very great rate; leaving me behind, who ever piqued myself in throwing the dirt at them.—Our conversation was very insipid:—I could not refrain laughing at Monsieur Le Doux's crossing himself as we passed the opera-house. The President received us with his usual complaisance, and ordered a variety of refreshments; after which, we entered into the business of our visit. I felt myself inspired with the presence of a third person, and threw additional force on all my arguments; and declared, that I loved Rozette, and more so, from being the cause of her present misfortune;—that if my father was determined still to keep her confined, I would not tamely see her so;—that I would agree never to see her more, but I would be certain she was restored to her former tranquillity.—The good man heard all I had to say with great patience, and then read me a grave lecture on my folly; pointed out strongly the difference in the gravity and wisdom of my father, and the volatility of myself; and told me, it was impossible for him

to meddle in an affair of this kind.—In vain did I make him various representations; but, deaf to my prayers and entreaties, he in his turn most ardently prayed me never to speak to him on that subject. I was nearly driven to despair, when the President said, as if by way of conversation, It is a great pity, indeed: for the girl has good ideas of futurity, and has sorely repented; her present situation in life prevents her putting in practice her religious intentions.

These few words were of the most essential service to my affair, and in the long-run proved the key to her gaining her liberty, as it could not be obtained without Monsieur Le Doux. As to Rozette, she never troubled herself about futurity. Love and opportunity was her motto.

Our worthy ecclesiastic had, like most men, a particular weakness; his violent zeal for Jansenism would make him render any one a service who assumed that character, though

in over so small a degree. His credulity was often made the sport of those that had discovered this weakness, and frequently to his own disadvantage. I myself, on this occasion, laid particular stress on it, and made it the mean of attaining the end I wished for. Monsieur Le Doux, after some minutes of reflection, asked if we could vouch for the certainty of what had been advanced of the girl's principles?—You cannot suppose we were ignorant enough not to aver it; which disposed his charity in our favour, and his relenting heart to our interest. He departed with assuring us, he would soon give us another conversation on this subject; when he would let us know his reflections more at large. My carriage conducted him to some place of devotion; while the President's took us to the opera, where they were performing the *School for Lovers*. We did nothing else but talk of the success of our affair, which I promised to myself as certain, since Monsieur Le Doux had taken a favourable part in it. The opera did not draw much of our attention; it was
ni chiefly

chiefly occupied in examining the conduct of the women who were to be the subjects of scandal for the evening.

Early next morning I wrote to Rozette, that there was the utmost necessity for her to be prepared to act the part of being strongly attached, in her religious principles, to Jansenism, if occasion should require; as it would be the only probable means of her obtaining her liberty.——Will not the idea of liberty make us pass through that pleasantly, which, upon other terms, would prove the most noxious to ourselves?—I sent her several books which treated copiously on the subject; but, above all, an abridged historical account of the principal events and transactions of that sect; which last book made my new convert suffer incredibly for a time.

I must relate a droll circumstance that this matter was productive. I had sent Rozette word by La Verdure, that I was under the necessity of leaving town for a week or two

with my father, not to be apprehensive that I had omitted any thing for her deliverance, which was going forward as fast as possible, and that La Verdure would always give her intelligence from me. I had never yet made the President privy to the very essential services his man had rendered me; and which was productive of what I shall hereafter relate.

We left town, and went to my father's seat. Rozette had sufficient occupation in making herself mistress of the subjects the books I sent her treated of, and preparing herself to play the part I had informed her might be necessary.—We soon reached my father's residence in Piccardy; where, you know, we breathe a fine, serene, and pure air: the country around us is beautiful; but our house is a little ancient, and ever brings to my mind a similitude with several old maids of honour, who, though they have lost the flowers of youth, are cultivated merely as they are profitable and necessary.—We were for some days

days without seeing a single person; but, as my father undertook this expedition merely to arrange properly his affairs in that part of the world, we were not at a loss for amusement. Insensibly, however, we got to visiting; as several of the neighbouring gentlemen called on us, politeness required our making a proper return of the compliment; and as we treated them well, they piqued themselves of returning it.—The natives of Piccardy are in general a good sort of people; free in their carriage and behaviour, honest in their intentions when they once shew a good face; but terribly mischievous and fullen, nay, even more so than the Normans, if they take a dislike, and get quit of their national prejudice in favour of strangers.

The different houses we were received at are not worth mentioning; but there is in our neighbourhood an old officer who has outlived all the perils of his profession, and nearly reduced to the want of necessaries; still his pride is so great, that he scarcely ever conde-

sends to have any commerce with his neighbours, (who are always ready to render him any service in their power), for this motive only, because their ancestors, like his, cannot boast of being slain in action with Philip of Macedon. However, I found his house decently furnished, though adorned with tapestry which seemed to carry a date long prior to his existence. I was received by him with politeness and ease. — In short, my dear Marquis, after having spent six weeks in visiting our neighbours, sometimes by myself, and oftentimes with my father, I received nothing but civilities; which, though tasteless, put me in mind of those practised by our great-grandfathers: one of our winter supper parties was worth an eternity of these campaign festivals. It were entirely useless to look for any variety in my amusements: circumstances were ever against it; and, at times when I flattered myself Fortune would prove propitious and favourable to my wishes, I really ever found the pretty Piccardinians with cold hearts.

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I, like one of those who ever find matter in the most trifling occurrences, occasionally availed myself of the opportunity; but it was devoid of that brilliancy which, in Paris, is thrown on every such like transaction. The Piccards are of simple manners; and if ever Faith should be lost to the remainder of the world, you may be certain of finding it amongst them. I will now relate the only occurrence I met with, which can prove anywise amusing.—The son of a rich farmer-general was in love with the daughter of a simple gentleman in his neighbourhood: their love was reciprocal; but her father would not suffer his daughter to marry a plebeian; as such, their love was clandestinely carried on; and though the young lady wished much to be united to a man of rank, still she would willingly have resigned herself to her young friend, of whose love she was sure. He had no title to nobility, nor possessed any thing but a few dirty acres, and perhaps a few hundred pounds. They had, for near two years, found many opportunities of meeting at the

greater part of the nobilities' parties, without any difference in the situation of their hearts. However, without minutely entering into a detail of their adventures, it will suffice to say, that the god of Love had pierced her heart with the arrow of a young agreeable nobleman who was introduced into the family. The frequent opportunities he had of flattering her vanity, soon made her yield to his solicitations—the first attainment of his amorous wishes; and the foolish father, pleased with the honour done him, as it was by a person of rank, vauntingly repeated the unguarded step of his daughter. Thus was Romulus, son to the god Mars; and thus are many of the first families sons of plebeians. After producing the fruits of this connection, Miss De Bercaille could no longer suffer the man to whom she owed the obligation of becoming a mother, and gave him his congé. I shortly after learnt that she was become a wise girl, and had only changed to find a better.

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The poor young farmer, Monsieur Blutot, was not so well informed of his mistress as myself, and was nearly desperate at her perfidy : he complained of it to a neighbouring farmer, who told him of a shepherd that was a conjurer, and understood magic to a miracle.—It is an infallible remark, that the least propensity a nation has to be magicians, the readier you see them encouraged among them.—The young man went immediately to find him ; and he, being a comical fellow, made the young farmer pray, supplicate, conjure, and pay him well, and then gave him a phial with a certain liquor, which he ordered him to mix in the drink of her whose heart he wished to gain. A parish feast happening shortly after, gave him his longed-for opportunity. The curate had invited all at our house ; and, by way of doing us more honour, had requested the attendance of several neighbouring gentlemen ; amongst which were several other curates, this Mr. Blutot, and his old mistress Miss De Bercaille. The dinner was most copiously served ; we were near

twenty-five people at table. The good pastor was not only to be satisfied with joy; as there was never another pretty woman but this Miss Bercaille, all the rest having passed their juvenile days, I took care to seat her between the good pastor and myself, determined to ingratiate myself into her good graces; for I knew my chicken was no novice in the art of love.

Her lover would have been happy to have been in my situation; but as the sword makes way for the gown, he was content with envying my happiness, which he flattered himself would be but of very short duration; as he was determined to avail himself of the precious contents of his amorous potion in the phial, by mixing it in the pot his mistress was likely to drink of: but, as he had no opportunity of making any choice where to deposit it, he, pleased with the grand idea, poured the whole of it in a large two-quart decanter, which was to make a part of the beverage in the desert. Our repast was a very heteroge-

neous

neous composition; and the clergy are very hearty, drank as freely, and declaimed severely against those heretics who would not do the same. I was studious to whisper many soft and pleasing things to my fair companion, and had no great difficulty in making her believe all I said. She has experience, and a girl in that situation, with the natural heat and temperature of her mind, will forward you in your advances to her in the road to pleasure. —We had arrived near to the point in question, when the company insensibly grew turbulent; and we withdrew to some of the pleasant allies in the garden: it was but making a different party. The desert brought with it a double increase of pleasure and mirth. — Nothing can be more agreeable than to see for once an entertainment of this sort. You have heard much of that golden age in which men, without art or pleasure, were voluptuously getting drunk without feeling it.

Previous to the commencement of the desert, the whole company was served with some

of the precious liquor in the decanter in question, which was a sort of ratafia. My father, my neighbour and myself, drank none of it; as we were always used to Burgundy, which our servants ever carried with us. The dinner finished, we all adjourned to church. My charming friend was on the side of me, which was not the direct situation I wished her to be in; but it was as much as the place would admit of. The preacher began his sermon; his text was happily chosen; he was for making a panegyric on a virgin: his sermon was intended to be an exhortation to chastity, but which he did not accomplish.—It is necessary to observe here, that the liquor Butot put into the ratafia, had sufficient time to mix and insinuate itself into all the parts of the ratafia, previous to their drinking it.

It was a strong composition, which operated generally two ways: it either raised the heat of blood, and threw the person into an amorous fury, or put the patient into a strong

purga-

purgative, which was more or less quick, according to the different constitutions.

The potion had already taken effect on our most Christian orator; his mind was heated with desire: the effects were likewise felt by all the other curates, and the rest of the company of the dinner. Nothing could be more amusing than to see the priesthood all in violent agitation on their seats, and the rolling of their eyes with all the lasciviousness of ardent desire, and nowise suitable to that amiable virtue of continence which we were to have received a lecture upon. The country people could hardly refrain violating the decency of decorum, from what they saw; and had like to have lost that respect which is due to the cloth, which at length they did.

Our priest, on making a grand effort of restraint, put forth one of those pathetic hollas which vibrated in the vaulted church; but it would not suffer him to retain quiet the malignancy of the ratafia, which escaped him
with

with all the severity of its composition. This misfortune quite overpowered him: he lost his voice, and fell into his chair. Immediately the whole congregation flew to his assistance. A cold sweat had already taken possession of all his limbs, so that he was supposed to be in the agonies of death; but an instant soon let those who had come to his assistance know that he had still life enough in him; and, whether from a motive of joy on his recovery, or what other principle, I cannot say, they instantly ordered a sacrifice of incense to the gods, and the church to be perfumed.

The laugh became quite general: but those who seemed to enjoy it most, shortly after gave an opportunity to them they had been laughing at, from their being in a similar situation. My father could not refrain asking me, if I remembered the adventure of Constantine, surnamed Copronime, from the circumstance of his having fouled the holy water in which he was bathed on baptism.

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We had got to about a third of the first psalm, when our two choiristers, pressed by the violent necessities of nature, hastily quitted their sacerdotal cloaks, and flew to the church-yard. The suddenness of their flight astonished the whole congregation. Their places were instantly supplied by two other curates, who had scarcely taken ten paces in the choir, before the contagious cloaks, like that of Nessus, enflamed them. They immediately quitted them, and the church; and were instantly followed by ten of the confederates, who underwent the same torments. The rest of the assembly could not restrain their laughter: one only remained immovable. It was in vain that he felt the most excruciating necessity of quitting his post: determined to remain, he, like the Roman senators, who, in the midst of the plundering Gauls at the sacking of the Roman empire, remained firm in their duties and occupations in the senate, in their curule chairs, where they received their death from the hand of the enemy.

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The ancients knew the gods from the refulgent odour which followed their steps; but I dare say that not one of those who dined with us would ever have an altar erected to their refulgent odour, even among the heathens.

The effects of the ratafia, or rather the philtre, were not less copious in the procuring an additional fluidity in the heterogeneous bodies of some of them, as likewise in heating the concupiscence of those that had swallowed some portion of it; for we saw several of them who, in their amorous transports, embraced, without any distinction of age or person, every woman that came in their way. I doubt not but they wished for the opportunity of carrying their desires further; but, from shame at the number of spectators, they were deterred from pursuing their inclinations. Why should Nature have implanted that in herent shame in us, when in propagation of its greatest advantage? We were highly amused by the figure an old chaplain, of
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above sixty, made, who undoubtedly must have taken a double portion of this prolific draught to have roused in him those sensations in the decline of his existence. He was running across a meadow in pursuit of an ugly shepherdess, who, from the deshabille she was in, gave no good opinion of her virtue. They called after him, that the nymph was flying him; which made him more eager in her pursuit. When this new Apollo was on the point of carrying his Daphne, she by an unlucky step fell into a quagmire, and drew in after her her ecclesiastical god; from whence they were drawn all covered with mud. What a fine spectacle, my dear Marquis, this would have been for the inimitable Calot! O that he had been there, to have pourtrayed them into one of his most excellent caricatures! Love, almighty Love, was the cause of all these occurrences; and if on one side he disturbed the sacred functions of the church, he accelerated on the other the accomplishment of my particu-
lar intrigues. It is an ill wind that blows no one good.

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I had got rambling from the meadows into the close of the wood, where I was favourably joined by Miss De Bercaille, just on my entrance into a most ravishing delightful alley, where the amorous ivy was closely clung to the young elm in fond embrace, and the vine hanging in drapery the limes and sycamores, whose fruit and blossoms gratified the senses with delicious fragrance. At a small distance were heard the soft murmurs of the placid silver stream, in concert with the feathered songsters, breathing forth all the soft pleasing notes of love. I could variegate this painting, and overload it with all the descriptions which one poet hands down to another; but, as I lost no time in the expedition I was about to execute, ought I to make you wait for a relation of circumstances? No: I will not. We arrived to a part where the grass was grown very high, and sat down upon it: Love had animated my fair nymph, and I was fraught with glowing ardour; Venus gave the signal; Fear took wing, and left us: Time was precious; we took care not to lose

lose opportunity and it: Cupid had spread his wings over us; the cloud was formed; the sky darkened; the arriving *thunder* grumbled, *fell*, and *all was consumed*.

We at length regained the curate's house. On our way, my fair deluder told me she was happy to find I was a gentleman: but sincerely, Marquis, I had much rather she had estimated me the most vigorous and athletic countryman. We found them all employed in making ready for their departure. I perceived the curate's bed-chamber open; curiosity led me in. I was followed by Mademoiselle De Bercaille. The bed was made, and looked very inviting: doubtless it possessed some very particular virtue; or, perhaps, it had felt the effects of the ratalia. Its appearance, however, made me feel the sensations of some of the curates. My companion perceived it. The windows were instantly shut, the curtains drawn, and the door bolted; when I put in practice *that* which the exigency of such a situation requires.

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The place and position was advantageous : I tasted a thousand pleasures, and ceased not to ask a repetition ; which was granted, with infinite variety, till I at last was intoxicated by plunging into such delicious scenes of voluptuousness. Still I could perceive growing in the eyes of the granter, an overflow of satisfaction in the enjoyment of such well-adopted pleasure ; and that, in a place where every admissible liberty has a particular check, I was unbounded in my praises of her, and the pleasure she had administered to me.

During eight or ten days that I continued in that part of the world, I did not pass one without visiting Mademoiselle De Bercaille, or talking of the parish feast. We at length prepared for our departure ; after many repeated expressions of unhappiness at leaving my mistress, and making her several presents ; amongst the number, perhaps, was that of the first sketch of a future young counsellor, which might be hereafter looked upon by her

her good father as possessing the blood of a prince royal, or perhaps some monarch.

On our return to Paris, I instantly sent for La Verduze, that he might inform me what progress he had made in my affairs with Rozette; and if she was ready, if occasion required, to act the part necessary, from the perusal of the books I sent her. She, poor girl, having nothing more at heart than her liberation, which she conceived would be attained by rendering herself mistress of the subjects treated of in the books, had been studiously employed in so doing; in which she had made great progress; when one day she was visited by one of the nuns who had taken the veil: (these women, though they ought to be less, or entirely devoid of a knowledge of the transactions of the world, have more curiosity than all the rest of it, and are more anxious of knowing its secrets. It is not, therefore, any ways astonishing that they should be unhappy.) She was very desirous of knowing what book Rozette was reading, which

which seemed to attract such vast attention. She made a difficulty in shewing it her, which only served to excite in a higher degree her desire of seeing it, and she wistfully asked to see it; which Rozette, with much pleasantry, refused, and so piqued her curiosity, that she made a jocular attempt to snatch it out of her hand. Rozette then positively refused to shew it her at any rate whatever, despising her meanness; which called up in her all her sanctified desire of revenge; which she gave full scope to, by instantly spreading an alarm all through the convent, telling every one she met that she had seen such a thing that made every joint of her tremble; for that the girl in the red chamber was surprised by her reading an abominable book of magic, which she was certain related to the dissolution of nature, and would raise the devil. The Lady Abbess trembled at the bare recital, and the whole convent was in a state of distraction. The whole community was instantly convened. They discussed, deliberated, gave their opinions, all about nothing;

thing; for nothing had been proposed. However, the Grand Vicar was called, and the circumstances were related to him. He instantly went to Rozette, and asked for her books, which she gave him; when he discovered them to be some Jansenistical writings; he asked her, if that was the profession she followed; she told him exactly, and that she most fervently hoped they ever would be;—for the poor girl had persuaded herself, that these interrogations were what she was to expect would produce her deliverance, and as such was for acting the part she was intended to perform, if occasion required.

The Vicar ironically told her he was happy to find that those were her sentiments; and that the cause could not but be well supported by persons of such reputation as herself, if, amongst the number of her companions, there were many attached to the same belief. She however fully felt the style in which this was asked, and answered him in a way which could not offend the ecclesiastic, though it
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was equally severe. He took away her books, gave orders that she should be taken all due care of, and that none but good books should be given her.

Nevertheless the religieuses were not satisfied with not knowing the subject of that book of necromancy, which occasioned all their alarms: they did all in their power to endeavour to learn it from Rozette; but she, being in a state of desperation, absolutely refused satisfying them.

They were all unanimously resolved to be revenged of her for the despicable treatment she gave them; and on La Verduze's coming to the convent, he was refused admittance: it was with very great difficulty he learnt the cause of their displeasure; which, upon hearing, he directly satisfied their curiosity, by telling them, he had brought Rozette the books, which were only to amuse her, and were a narrative of the voyages and adventures of Paul Lucas; it was downright ob-

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sinacy on her part not to shew them; and as a proof that they contained no harm, the Grand Vicar said he found nothing culpable in them. La Verdures address gained him their confidence again; he found the way to reconcile them so far as to gain admittance to Rozette, who was already very impatient at her detention.

The President had, for several days past, frequently missed La Verdures, and could never learn what was the cause of his seeming neglect. He, however, determined to find out what intrigue he had on hand, which took up so much of his time. He had, after much research, learnt that he was frequently seen in a female's habit, going to the convent of St. Pelagie. He devised this method to discover and punish him.

He told him one morning that he might spend that day to his own mind, as he should only want him to accomplish some commission he had given him; and that he would see him in the evening at the Marquis

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St. Laurence's, where he should sup. La Verdure professed of his master's goodness, and at his usual hour prepared for paying his visit to the convent. The President had got a trusty spy to watch the movements of La Verdure, who immediately flew to tell him that he had effeminized himself, and was going for the convent. The President instantly wrote to the Superior to let her know that a man in female's disguise had got introduced into the convent, and had practised the scheme for a long time past; that the wolf in sheep's clothing was a dangerous animal, and would cause much distraction, if admitted thus amongst them. The Superior, alarmed at the consequences that might arise from this affair, instantly sent to the Commissary, who immediately sent a troop of horse to her assistance; and they seized on six persons who were then in the parlour. Unfortunately amongst them there was one whose physiognomy gave them every just reason to suspect her being of a different sex, and they instantly proceeded towards the discovery: her resistance and efforts

rances of innocence, and being a woman, and that she had not done any thing that could put her into charge of the Commisary, had no effect whatever; for she was taken to a secret part of the convent, where the cries of this new Lucretia could not be heard, there to undergo an examination; when her examiner, with a loud voice, declared, that Madame Borut was not a man, and that her physiognomy had really misled them.

A thorough search all through the convent took place; and as there were no suspected persons to be found, Justice retired, after admonishing the Superior not to take the alarm so soon on any other occasion, and not to pay such implicit faith in a simple advice, and alarm so many honest people, where the expences were irrecoverable.—The President soon heard the rumour of what had passed at St. Pelagie, and was in constant expectation of having his interest wanted on the part of La Verdure, when he surprised him by coming in with all possible tranquility, and the

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All execution of the business he charged him with. Monsieur De Mondorville's curiosity was excited to the utmost to know how he had freed himself from the affair; and undoubtedly you are in expectation of the same.

La Verduze, however, was under no difficulty whatever, as he was not there at the time the confusion happened. A little accident had intervened, and prevented the execution of the President's well-judged plan.

La Verduze, as usual, had got his disguise, and was on the road to make his ordinary visit to Rozette. It is necessary you should know that the rogue had his private intrigues; and in the execution of my business he always advanced his own. Pushed by two such noble principles as Interest and Love, is it anywise astonishing he should be so alert in the forwarding my matters?—He was met by two young men who were still elevated with the exhilarating fumes of champagne; and thinking they had met a goddess of a most enchanting

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chanting nature, would prevail on her divinity to conduct them to her Cyprian temple, where they might pour forth such *Wondrous* offerings as her merits required.—You see, my dear friend, that the bandage which Bacchus puts on the eyes of mortals is still of a thicker texture than that of Love: the one prevents your seeing, but the other troubles your sight.—Nothing is more pernicious than a false light.

La Verduce in vain essayed to defend himself from enduring the most loathsome compliments which they paid him: the only resource he had left, was to expose himself to the same temptation to which a pretty woman, who deals in a small way, is, on a similar occasion, exposed to: as he could not anywise get rid of these troublesome acquaintances, and, fearful if he carried the woman of honour with too high a hand, they might be too prying for his boasted honour, which, like every thing else, ever looses in the examination, luckily thought of asking them to

and left themselves at his lodgings; which these young enterprizers instantly acceded to; a coach was called, and ordered to drive where La Verdure directed. — Let us for an instant, divest ourselves of the idea of La Verdure being a valet, and suppose it the relation of one of your intimates; we shall then highly relish the adventure.

Figure to yourself the comical appearance of La Verdure, and conceive him seated between two young men, noying, caressing, and whispering all the effusions of heated love; he endeavouring to defend himself from the embraces of one, and the prying libertine hands of the other.

It was very amusing to them to think they were in possession of pretty things which they had subdued; and to him, in seriously defending those pretty things, which, if he had really possessed, he would not have so ardently fought to have defended. We are apt to exert ourselves more in defence of what we have

have not, than we should have courage or inclination to do, if we had it in our possession.

At length our company arrived at the destined spot, which was the house of one of La Verdure's occasional cousins, where he always changed his habit. His visitants were cordially received by her, and were quickly transported with the same glowing passion for her, as they were for the Adonis that brought them thither. Refreshments were proposed, and our heroes discharged the same with liberal profusion.

As the temptation which had accompanied them was now augmented, they were for going to the collation, and coming to the end of the point in agitation. La Verdure was determined to carry the matter to the last extreme, so as only to save from infringement the territories of his own mistress; and finding that open force would then be necessary, he slipped into the adjoining apartment, and quitting his female habiliments, appeared to

the company in his own dress, with the addition of a *couteau de chasse*, that had never been out of the scabbard; and, courageously advancing to the young Bacchanalians, insisted on their instantly leaving the house, or he would extend their corpses on the floor. — La Verduze has courage; and if we may rely on what he says, they trembling left the house, where they had been so ill required for the expences they had been put to. He was recompensed in the advancement of his intrigues by the folly of the young men. — Fortune, for that day, saved him from the wicked machinations of his master.

The President, piqued at his want of success, continued to have him watched. — The next day La Verduze flew to visit Rozette, that he might recount his adventure, which undoubtedly he magnified at his pleasure. After victory, the most cowardly soldier can boast his valorous actions. — He fortunately found that evening less time than usual, by which he escaped the search which was shortly

ly after made through the house, on a second anonymous information which the President dispatched. During some days he paid his visits without a fear of discovery; but, as he was prepared for it, he had it in some measure in his power to avoid it. However, success does not always follow: when vengeance is awakened, simplicity sleeps on the consciousness of its own innocence.

At length the President, tired out by the superior address of his valet, determined to watch himself his entrance into the convent, and then spread the alarm, which he accordingly did; and the Committary with a company of the city-guard were informed, that the man was gone to visit Rozette, and there they would then find him. La Verduce, on his wanting to leave the convent, perceived a confusion, and suspecting the cause, from the adventures he had escaped, was apprehensive of discovery; but, without being at a loss, conceived it to be, from the many circum-

La Verduce perceived in his master, a plan of his conveyance, resolved to turn the tables.

Without loss of time, La Verduce instantly threw off his female habit, when he found himself in his shirt and breeches only; and, having by chance a cap in his pocket, put it on; in this situation passed through the guard, who conceived him to be some person that was led there from curiosity, or else a gardiner belonging to the house; and, entering into a parley with the serjeant, assured him in confidence, that the person who had introduced himself into the convent was a man of condition, and that his name was the President De Mondorville.

The serjeant flew with the news to the Commissary, who, on this intelligence, instantly put an end to all difficulties, and retired: recommending the religious to keep the matter secret: for people of the gown do not wish to have a discussion of subjects against each other. — Had not La Verduce thought
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of this stratagem, he would have remained in the convent, and have been infallibly discovered.

The pretended secret soon took wind; and what persuaded people of its veracity was, that the President's carriage was seen in one of the leading streets at the very time the affair happened.

La Verduze dissembled with his master on account of his absence, but dared not speak to him on the adventure.

The religiouses, whose curiosity had been so mortified by Rosette, were happy in having an opportunity of revenging themselves on her, and profited much by the opportunity that the finding of the dress in question occasioned, by being in her room, which was immediately recognized to be that worn by the person who had frequently stolen her.

The poor penitent was conducted into a

dark chamber, where she was kept on bread and water; and where she continued till we got Monsieur Le Doux sufficiently interested to procure her enlargement.

The President was highly offended; as the general topic of conversation was, that he had dressed himself in women's cloaths, to run away with a girl confined in St. Pelagie, which was confirmed by the report of the religious belonging to the convent; but still he could not help laughing at the adventure. 'Twas now that he was determined to know the whole truth from La Verdure, who related circumstantially every proceeding, particularly as he felt his vanity flattered at his master's expence; but he had address enough to obtain his pardon.

The President took it in high dudgeon that I had not made him acquainted with the services of La Verdure, and was with difficulty prevented quarrelling with me for not being in possession of my secret; as my so doing I had

had exposed him to the being made a town-talk of.—Ah, my dear Marquis! he was pliqued at not meeting success; and whenever the conventual expedition was the subject of his conversation, he lost his temper; though I never failed to enjoy the laugh at his expence.—Thus, you see, how often those who endeavour to play upon others, are played upon themselves.

We never loose any thing by doing good to another person; but we have every thing to apprehend when we prepare mischief for them.

The dreadful situation of Rozette drove me nearly to distraction.—I had again recourse to Monsieur Le Doux; and, with all the energy of language, pointed out to him in the most pathetic terms my misfortune.

As he was tender hearted, and I knew the clue of his soul, I so forcibly played on his weak side, as to interest him in the most hazardous

ardous undertaking. I told him, if he was really a friend to my father and his family, he ought to show it on this occasion, and prevent my plunging into some desperate act or other, which I certainly had in contemplation; but finding all that I had advanced did not sufficiently interest him in my favour, I did not hesitate to tell him the exact situation of Rozette, all which I had been the occasion of; and in the most pointed terms I profited of the circumstance of the books, and the strong avowal she had made of professing those sentiments, which so meliorated him to my purpose, that on my begging him to enquire into the facts which I had advanced, he assured me if he found my representations just, he would exert his utmost endeavours to accelerate her deliverance; and promised me, that in three days he would positively give me a final answer. I most cordially thanked him; he told me he should be very happy if he could bring so good a mind to a just method of thinking, and of which he did not despair.

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During his researches into the truth of my assertions, and the necessary steps to be taken in favour of Rozette, I amused myself with a well-known character, whose violent attachment to religion, though only twenty-nine years old, has been the object of general admiration.

If a woman of fifty years old has the vanity of being thought of a remarkable character, to obtain which she gives up the pride of rouge and patching, putting her religious notions and person under the direction of some celebrated divine, and abandoning the world and its follies, it would in her be passable; but for a young, handsome, sprightly widow, scarcely entered her thirtieth year, possessing the graces, with wit and beauty sufficient to command the attention of the public, to think of pursuing a monastical life, is unpardonable: nay, it can be only telling the world, that she is desirous of being persuaded of continuing amongst them, and participating in a particular and stolen way of its pleasures, which

which idea so strongly possesses us, that she then becomes, from pique, under the necessity of doing that which, from the bottom of her heart, she was most anxious of putting in practice. Such assumed virtue is ever likely to be made a liar of; a puff from the breath of Scandal always subjects it to a derangement; and if she should ever be found alone with an ardent admirer, she must fall a sacrifice to the love of pleasure.

Madame Dorigny, of whom I have already made mention in the former part of these memoirs, was one of those ladies who had insulted me in my misfortunes. She was, from her birth, an example of edification. The unremitted praise of her bounty was expanded throughout every village. She favoured me, by sending, for my perusal, the choice sermons of Father Regnault, which are preached in the extremities of Paris, in a small church expressly built for that purpose, to which all the devotees resort with an enthusiastic madness.

One day, as I called on her to take a second breakfast, and collating with her my acquaintance, she spoke of several ladies in a stile they no ways merited. I instantly forgot her beauteous eyes and agreeable person, and viewed her with becoming indignation; and though she affected, in offering me the several delicacies of her table, to display negligently the most beautiful hand, I had resolved to punish her temerity, and laid the foundation of such a punishment as became very sensible to her, and deprived her of the enjoyment of that virtue, to which she had apparently sacrificed so much, though to which none but fools could ever become dupes. Not knowing what to do with myself after having left Monsieur Le Doux, I went to make her a visit, but was at first refused admittance by the porter. On my insisting on his sending up my name, I had permission to pay my respects to her. She was in a morning-gown, of a most beautiful stuff, simply trimmed with English lace, with robbins of the same quality. The freshness and serenity of her

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modestance was an emblem of the peace which seemingly reigned in her heart; but I was determined to plant a thorn, the plucking of which should harrow up a storm of trouble. She had in her hand a thick book, bound in black leather, and begged my permission to finish her morning orisons, which to me appeared of a very long duration indeed. However, during my attendance, I examined the furniture, all which spoke her a mistress of taste and elegance; and, from a peep that I got at her study, I saw plainly every thing there calculated for the luxury of study, and not a single article for the mortification of body or mind.—It is for women of worldly minds to be ignorant of procuring the truly desirable acquisitions of life.

Her business finished, my amiable devotee glanced with an air of surprize, which seemingly told me, that though she was a saint, she was not less charming. Our conversation turned on the different pleasures going forward in the great world; parties, exhibitions,

sions, &c. were all separately discussed; when the gallant adventures of Madame Berpile and Madame Seluz were brought on the carpet; which of course led to mine, as a natural consequence. She, with an air of assumed friendship, told me, that I really ought not to carry such arts of pleasing always with me, as I was capable of giving birth to very strange desires; which I quickly perceived were beginning to bud in the breast of Madame Dorigny. Her eyes betrayed her; and from that day there was nothing wanting but my confirming it. Her very looks told me she loved, but mine were barbarous enough not to make the same declaration; and I was resolved hers should be verbal. She asked me if I had seen a book, which she had understood had made much talk in the world: I told her I had the book, but that it was written in a very free and libertine manner, and was not proper for her perusal. She apparently coincided with me in opinion; but, by an aptness of mind, she arrived at the end to which she had been driving; she asked me if

if the whole book was in the same file. I told her there were some parts which the most scrupulous minds might read. Those, said she, are the parts I would wish to read, that I might judge if that same which report generally exaggerates was really due to the work. I do not exaggerate to you, when I affirm my saint was no longer mistress of herself. I promised to send her the book the next day, but she requested it in the afternoon. I purposely placed therein two prints, which would relumine afresh those sparks a young widow would feel with additional force, as the heat of the ashes could not be yet cold in her bosom—and maliciously granted her request.

On my coming the next day from the palace, I called to know if the book had met with her approbation; of which I made not the least doubt. She told me she had hardly read four pages, but that she was well pleased with the style of it. Her ingenuity in this particular could not deceive me; for I am well

well convinced a woman entering on a career of amusement is ever on the reserve. I was asked to dine; which I accepted without much solicitation, and sent the carriage home. She promised me high amusement from an ecclesiastic, who was to be of our party, as he possessed much wit; but, to my great mortification, I found him a complete beast: perhaps his wit only shines when he is of a tête-à-tête party; however, I am certain it never was calculated to shine in a trio.

Our dinner was exquisite: the coffee which followed was delicious. If I was an epicure, I should ever wish to have all my wants administered from the hands of a devotee. The presence of a third person deranged my ideas: our conversation was highly insipid. Madame Dorigny quickly perceived the cause of my disquiet, and with all the complaisance of her nature speedily removed it; at the same time doing good to her soul; for she dispatched our sanctified gentleman to the further end of Paris, to carry some relief to
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the sick. With one hand our young widow displays her bounty, and with the other she invites pleasure, and drives away all obstacles. Our passions have each their particular politics, which govern them; but the likeliest to succeed, are those which carry with them the appearance of reformation.

I was seated near to Madame Dorigny; and, either from negligence, or the want of a treacherous pin in her neck handkerchief, I was caught by the appearance of a neck of the most enchanting and dazzling whiteness; on which I paid her a compliment that heightened her already too exquisite charms, by overspreading them with a blush of modesty. A gentle movement on my part occasioned her flight: I caught her; and, as she could not prevent my exclaiming against her runaway leg, whose beauties I had discovered, she begged I would tread slightly over those matters. However, I wandered from the beauties of her leg to those of her neck, her hand, and shape: in short, her whole person became

became a subject of my admiration. Insensibly our conversation got animated; and every thing which, in her, had become a cause of my panegyric, was pointed out, in women of our acquaintance, as faults, to shew her beauties to the greater advantage. If I played, so much against my inclination, the passionate admirer, it was only to punish her for her maliciousness on my adventure. From one trifling liberty I was emboldened to proceed towards a greater; and dared venture, from having kissed her hand, to approach to her neck and face. She would have warded off the assault, but her vermilion lips understood not how to make any defence, and received all the destined marks of my glowing ardour. One kiss forwarded a second, which was accompanied by a third; that led on to infinity. Her attempts at resistance only gave me fresh opportunities of glory; and with malignancy, though attended with the greatest indifference, did I redouble all my efforts in carrying the prize. I caught her in my arms, and gently conveyed her to

a bed

a bed in the adjoining chamber, where I seated her, and, throwing myself at her feet, begged ten thousand pardons for an offence at which no woman ever took umbrage. The beautiful Dorigny opened her feeble, half-shut eyes; and, calling up a tender sigh, she in the most pathetic voice exclaimed, Ah! my dear Counsellor, I am going to damn myself for ever. I instantly exclaimed, Then it's time for me to save myself; and, in so saying, ran immediately to the door; which so thoroughly awaked her, that she directly flew to reviling me. Fury had kindled in her eyes all its petulant fires, and passion had thrown her whole soul into agitation: with these auxiliaries she advanced toward me, and overladen me with reproaches. I could not open the door, owing to a secret catch in the lock, which I did not know how to explore; therefore made a virtue of necessity, and passed the whole transaction into a piece of pleasantry. She would not hearken to any reason I could offer; and as she required ample reparation, I cast a tender glance on her, which

which she returned, accompanied by a torrent of tears. What adamant heart would not have melted at such a tender sight! I drew near her; and, catching her in my arms, in the effusions of a sincere repentance, made her *feel*, and *taste*, that it was for her good fortune I had failed, and that my fault was of the happiest nature in the world. Ah, my dear Marquis, what deliciousness did I not experience! How have I blessed my good fortune, for having, as it were, from necessity, tasted such exquisite delicacy! Two hours passed in *crying* away my fault: I did not leave my fair friend, till I had got my full pardon: which was only *sealed* by my doubling and trebling my *works of satisfaction* in her favour.

I left her in the evening, under promise of frequently seeing her; which I did not fail complying with, whenever I found occasion. I have made a reserve in my taste for penitential favour; and Madame Doriguy has done the same in voluptuousness, and affected

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criticisms. After all, should not I have been a great fool not to have profited by my adventure? for, had I not, I should only have punished my wickedly-mischievous friend, without destroying the cause of the evil; and, besides which, I should have deprived myself of an inexpressible pleasure. I ever will profit from an opportunity, if I can; and particularly so, if to the mortification of others. Why should we interdict pleasure, when its blossoms only last for a day? deprive ourselves of its enjoyments, and repent our folly for not having tasted its sweets previous to our admitting it to perish?

Monsieur Le Doux, having fully informed himself of what I had advanced in favour of Rozette, and finding it strictly the case, had found the means of speaking to her, though she was not to be so easily freed from her present situation, as to be admitted to speak with any one enquiring for her. However, his conversation with her was so pleasing to his

most sanguine wishes, that he was sufficiently interested to promise to see her again.

It was in this favourable turn of mind that my worthy friend Le Doux came to seek me, and assured me I might rely on his services; that in the evening he should be able to bring me much good news with respect to the prisoner. He had already obtained an order from the Lieutenant of the Police to have permission of speaking to Rozette whenever he chose. He had slightly touched on the subject to my father, who was still unmoved in his prejudices against her. His Director, on this occasion, had equal the same influence with him as the most distant acquaintance.

As the intended visit was to be made to Rozette this same evening, I exerted my whole art of persuasion to be suffered to accompany him, which he most positively refused, but which I obtained by the address of La Verdure.

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I was

I was, after dinner, unusually low and pensive; when my trusty and faithful La Verdure came from his master, the President, to know if I would make one at a pool of quadrille, at Madame De L'Ecluse's, where he was going that evening. You know this lady, my dear Marquis: she is, as she says, the wife of an officer, and ever has parties that play for their own amusement, and her profit. As to the company one meets there, the men in general are very well, and the women are sufficiently free and libertine. Nothing, however, passes there which can afford a rumour to its prejudice; but it is very agreeable to have in Paris some places where one may see pretty women, and be free from the censuring tongue of Scandal; and where you may chuse at your pleasure, without having the reputation of making choice from necessity. I returned for answer, that I would see him there at eight o'clock. I had been given to understand, that I was shortly to be visited by a young Provençal, who was coming to solicit my interest in a law-suit he had at Paris.

Such

Such

Such is my heart, ever on the wing, and eager to catch at any thing:—it resembles, in love and voluptuousness, those rapacious children who envy and wish to possess every thing they see.

During La Verduze's stay, I was devising with him on the means of my seeing Rozette, as I had acquainted him with the particulars of Monsieur Le Dour's visit; in which he found no difficulty whatever. One would conjecture that this lad had nothing else to think of but the projection of stratagems, which he could vary to infinity. This is far from being the case; for he has but one road, and only one idea, in the conducting an intrigue; and, though it is always the same, he ever makes it answer its intended end. The facility of his genius is not in the smallest degree admirable; but his good fortune always awaits him. I put myself under his direction. He changed his habit, to get admittance again to Rozette; and he desired I would likewise change mine, and assume the eccle-

fastic robes of the same order as Le Doux, and leave the rest to his management. The idea pleased me; therefore I instantly wrote to a very particular friend of mine, an abbé, and Doctor of the Sorbonne, requesting him to lend me a cassock, band, and long cloak, with the rest of a complete dress. He, without knowing to what use I meant to put it, and without giving himself the trouble of enquiring, immediately sent me what I had wrote for; which La Verdure carried to his dressing abode.

I equipped myself in my new uniform. The wig, which hid my hair, carried an air of modesty with it, and seemed as if dressed and arranged by regularity itself. In short, my whole habiliment and person carried with them a look of the most sanctified Confessor, though rather of too young an appearance, and that my eyes flashed too often with the fire of libertinism. However, I passed very well for a cherisher of good souls.

I did

I did not any ways feel myself at a loss in my new dress; for I wore, when at St. Suplice, for some years, the small bands. Slander reports, that it was there I founded my future inheritance in gallantry.

I got into a sedan, and La Verdure followed me to St. Pelagie. He enquired if there had not been an ecclesiastic, of such a description, there. He was told, he had been there above half an hour. He then asked, if his master was not there too. They told him, they did not know his master: when he put on the appearance of embarrassment, saying, his master, who was the abbé de Calamort (and abbé of an order which was of his own immediate institution), would be very angry with him, for his master was to have been with that ecclesiastic who was there, as he had an order from the Lieutenant of the Police to visit the convent with him; and, so saying, came out to call me, telling me that I might go in.

He went first, told the door-keeper that I was his master, and desired her to conduct me into the parlour, where the worthy priest I wanted was. The woman opened the door, and I advanced, but not without trembling, though I could hardly refrain laughing at the same time. As I passed on, I was strictly examined by many of the religieuses, whom I did not look at, through fear. The convent did honour to my modesty, for it called up afresh all its latent sparks.

What was the surprize of Monsieur Le Doux, on his seeing me, I leave you to judge. He exclaimed instantly, What could induce you to come here! are you determined to destroy my good intention, by involving us both? Happily there was no one present, to hear what past. Rozette was transported with joy, and highly pleased at seeing me. My sanctified friend was for delivering me a long harangue on my imprudence; when I shewed him the impropriety of making it known there, and the inutility of saying any thing further

further about it; as the thing had hitherto passed very well, and an exposition would ruin us both. I said many tender and civil things to Rozette, and shyly gave her a letter, which I had prepared, if an opportunity should offer; wherein I assured her, if there was the smallest probability of success, I would see her again as the next day. Monsieur Le Doux was on pins all the time, and he cut as short as he could the visit and conversation, but assured Rozette that three days hence she should not sleep in St. Pelagie, exhorting her to maintain her good disposition of sentiments, and not follow her vicious practices. There is, said Monsieur Le Doux, a resource in people of understanding; I never despair but of fools: this girl has a great deal of good sense.

We left the convent; and, as I passed by several of its inhabitants who seemed to have a taste for ecclesiasticks of a taking mien, I went through again a strict examination from them. The worst of the business was now to

happens; for I had sent away the chair, and had got into the carriage with Monsieur Le Doux, who now threw aside all the benignity of his character, and aspersed me with all the virulence of reproach—surprised at my daring to profane the habits of the church—that I had made him, though unknowingly to himself, an accomplice of the most dreadful crimes:—and since I had neither religion nor consideration, he would never see me more—that he would acquaint my father of my irregularities, and abandon Rozette. This last assertion hurt me more than all the others, and I felt it with all the poignancy it was intended to bring with it.

I begged him ten thousand pardons, and assured him I would in future be more cautious; when by my repeated assurances I found he began to give way to my solicitations; but what insured me his forgiveness above all, was my reproaching him with the unjustness of suffering a girl to be confined so long in the
cause

cause of truth, who had been rendered so unhappy only from my imprudencies.

I alighted at his house, from whence I instantly proceeded to La Verdure's, where I quickly changed my dress. I was diverted with the coachman, who told me I was not so mischievous now, as that day when I beat him so heartily; and that the Almighty had done me an essential service in making a priest of me.—As he got to his seat he wished me a good curacy.

It was the fellow who had drove me to Rozette's two months ago, and who my father had found dangerously ill at Villenieuve.

It was near nine o'clock before I called at Madame D'Ecluse; where I found assembled several very pretty women, and the President deeply engaged with one of them. Elate with joy at the happy turn of my last enterprise, I could not refrain making all the company partake of my good fortune; so much

so, that a very grave and serious lady of near forty became amorously in love, and made very flattering advances to me; which, upon my soul, I was ungracious enough not to take the most minute notice of. The time will arrive when, to my misfortune, I shall feel myself in her situation; then, without hopes of future enjoyment, I shall divert myself with the pleasing idea of the past; which, in some measure, will afford to an old man this flattering retrospection—that when young he profited, to the utmost, of the pleasures of youth.—Is not a research into the past equal, if not superior, to a perspective of the future?

I refused supping with several parties, who were so obliging as to beg my company; for as I had determined to commit a folly the next day, I was resolved to prepare for it by an evening wisely spent: I therefore returned home, where I found my father, and kept him company the rest of the evening. It

was

was late before we retired: I however enjoyed a night of calm tranquillity.

In the morning I was told that La Verduce was waiting to see me: he came to inform himself of my success, and how the whole went off; which I related to him. He was for encouraging me to make another visit that evening, in which I was nowise backward, and promised him not to fail. I desired him to tell his master he was positively to be disengaged as to-morrow evening, and must sup with me; that I would not admit of any refusal whatever.——At same time I received a note from Madame De Dorigny, requesting I would call on her: it was wrote in a style which the most scrupulous might read without being able to scandalize a single word; yet to me who knew the secret springs of her soul, it was the most passionate and warm epistle I had read for some time. My answer was made by my personal appearance; for, without waiting for the etiquette of dress, I instantly got into a carriage, and drove to her.

My

My apology for my visiting her in my morning dress, I said could only be made by very great anxiety of paying her my devoirs. She received me at her toilet; which, as belonging to a devotee, was less brilliant than that of a coquette, but more choice with regard to its baubles, and better decorated; neither were the odoriferous waters which were on it, so numerous and strong as theirs; but they were exquisite, and gave a soft and pleasant fragrance to the whole chamber, where you respired only the most delicious and perfumed air. Her morning dress was an assemblage of taste and elegance; each seemingly outvied the other, in endeavouring to add to the display of her charms. Her eyes were tenderly cast on mine, which were not backward in inspiring hers with the most ardent glances. During the time they were preparing for us a most delicious cup of chocolate, I approached near her, and gathered from her rosy lips the palmy nectar, superior to any ever administered to the gods.

I was

I was no longer tempted to save myself. I contemplated the happy situation she was then in: a looking-glass made me quickly perceive that in a morning-gown I could not risk much without danger; yet nevertheless I embraced her, and her beautiful arms locked me with delicious transport on her breast, which so animated us both, that she willingly would have *tried* that very instant.

After letting down a red damask curtain, which shaded the light, and threw its vermilion tints on the countenance of Madame Dorigny, whose animation it heightened to so great a degree as to render her irresistible: she became subservient to my purposes, or rather to our necessities. Yes, my dear friend, in a place adorned by taste, and furnished with delicacy and pleasure, did I contemplate, without the interference of an obstacle, whatever was in possession of the adorable and divine Dorigny; who, placed by me on a sofa of a violet colour, was execrating the judges; when, having placed a bandage on my eyes, I blinded

I blinded hers with innumerable kisses, and did that justice to her charms, which they so richly deserved.

What exquisite pleasure in awarding a degree of justice, when put in instant execution by one's self!

The hour of my attendance at the palace drawing nigh, I, with reluctant regret, took leave, and followed my professional vocations, which I to a certainty knew would produce more profit, but infinite less amusement. My dear Marquis, if ever you should become a sensualist, with delicate and refined notions of pleasure, take to your arms a devotee, who will overpower you with its superabundant varieties: they, and they only, possess the key to its secrets; but it is necessary that they themselves introduce you *in their temples*.

My whole mind was now occupied with the idea of making Rozette my promised wife. Having accommodated my dress to my intended

intended purpose, I instantly set out on my expedition. Having gained my admittance, I was entertained during my attendance for the person I enquired after, by a mother abbess, who, far from depressing my spirits, was careful in displaying a fresh countenance, and drawing up her chest, with all the airs of a young girl, endeavouring to catch my attention. There was almost immediately spread through the convent a rumour that there was in the parlour of St. John, an ecclesiastic who was as beautiful as an angel. The nuns of a convent always over-do every thing. Under the pretence of being wanted at the grate, I was successively visited by mothers, nuns, pensioners, and boarders. I had, however, the satisfaction to see many pretty faces.—What a very great pity to keep thus caged up such charming birds, who only wish the happiness of their liberties!—Rosette at length came to thank me for the honour of my visits; we whispered each other a thousand soft and endearing things; repeating our kisses, as well as we could, through the apertures

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tures of the grating. I protested to her she would very shortly be relieved from her present captivity—she vowed to me an eternal love; during all which time we were as if glued to the bars of the grating. A religiousse who perceived us, went and told her companions I was confessing Rozette. After being near an hour with my dear friend, I began to feel myself most violently agitated, which was highly increased by the difficulties in assuaging it: Rozette's, which had been so long since at rest, became at least equally agitated with myself; and as neither of us expected any interruption, we hazarded a very difficult enterprize.

I got on a chair; she did the same on the other side of the grating; and without in the least thinking of the embarrassment of my dress, the fear of surprize, or the cursed bars of the grating, by her address and mine, I reached the end of my *amusement*. Ten times should I, in any other situation, have experienced the most exquisite of all pleasures; but, whether

whether it were owing to the copious libations I had administered so profusely at the shrine of Dorigoy which I yet felt, or whether it was owing to the coolness from the iron, I know not, but I could not sufficiently profit from the situation: yet my exertions brought me nearly to the attainment of the end of all my *desires*, when a secret stiffness, a certain fore-runner of my coming *felicity*, advertised me of its near approach. Already had Rozette *twice contributed*, and was *delivering* nearly a *third time*, when we heard a rustling noise; *and all was lost*. We immediately got ourselves in proper order, and in our places.—The destiny of *enterprizes* always depends on the very instant chosen for their execution.—An imagination like yours can better picture than I relate the pleasantness of our very critical situation.

I have many very wanton and lascivious prints, as you well know; but none have yet represented any situation with such exquisite taste: 'tis here an engraver might show a variety

sity of ideas.—Had I a mind to be jocose, I should say I was much astonished that the grating is never consumed when between two such fires.—It was fortunately the heavy tread of one of the touriers, whose footsteps had timely advised us to prepare for her coming, which was to acquaint me, that two of the mother abbesses and three sisters were waiting me at their confessionals.—It is proper always to be on one's guard; for when a priest goes frequently to a convent where he has the good fortune to please, he is overwhelmed with their religious, who are over ready to open to him the most inward recesses of their soul. To a director of twenty-four years of age, a dozen cloisters would be no bad thing; but a dozen gentle cloisters would be too much for so young a director.

"I told the Commissioner that I was highly surprised I could not at present attend them; but that at the same hour on the morrow, I would most assiduously wait on them, and should think myself much honoured by their preference;

rence: to which they only had to repeat their most earnest desire of my punctual attendance. I assured them they might rely on me; and they desired my address, in case any of the Superiors should be anywise incommoded, which induced me to give them that of my friend, who was a doctor of the Sorbonae; and fearing to be again importuned, I retired. I omitted to tell you, that it was the general opinion through the convent, that Rozette was much better since her confession to me; and that many of the sisters were very desirous of visiting her that evening. There were many of the religiouses who would willingly have been women of the town, that they might have had the pleasure of confessing to one who apparently was as good-natured as I seemingly was. Rozette had the address to tell those who spoke to her about me, that my physiognomy was very deceitful (which, in one sense, was a strict truth); and though I possessed so pleasant and agreeable an appearance, yet my heart was very obdurate and

rigid toward sinners.—She very malignantly enjoyed the simplicity of the Beguines.

On my leaving St. Pelagie and my habits, I went to find Monsieur Le Doux, who had just arrived very fatigued; for he had been since morning interesting several devout souls in procuring their assistance in the deliverance of my mistress. He ventured to trust me with this secret, that the next day, in despite of my father's inclinations to the contrary, she should be delivered from her present unpleasant habitation; for that now he was resolved and determined no obstacle whatever should prevent his accomplishing his ends.

He told me he should sup at home that evening, and begged I would make a party, and sup with him, which I promised to comply with; and for the first time in my life I believe I chose such as did me credit. They were astonished when they heard the Count De Montval announced as one of the party. They paid me many compliments on the propriety

priety of my choice. I made war and politics subjects for conversation, and was one of the first in joining in the praise of our most august monarch; of whom, my dear friend, you have spoken in such very high terms in your letters to me; and I assure you, you possess my esteem in a much higher degree from the justice you render our prince, when you say, that in his paternal affection, his heart is equal to that of Louis XII. and in valour, to the Augustean Philips.

Destiny generally favours such men as act with propriety and caution; leastwise I found it so, in this last rencountre. After supper, we got to cards; but the early departure of the Count, whose state of health will not admit his keeping late hours, quite deranged our set; however, we got to lambskinnet:—I risked a few pounds; Fortune proving favourable, I pushed her; and though many were setting against me, I made shift to clear upward of two hundred guineas. I employed the greater part of the remaining evening

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in contemplating my extraordinary good luck, and the remainder, in thanking Heaven for thus seasonably administering to the wants of a young man, whose present situation was rendered uncomfortable for the want of some pecuniary assistance.

The next morning I received a fresh invitation from Madame De Dornigny for to drink chocolate; just at the same instant Monsieur Le Doux came to inform me, that my father was positive in his determination of not suffering the enlargement of Rozette; and that their arguments on that subject had been carried on with much warmth. We had scarcely begun talking on the subject, when my father entered; and finding his director with me, instantly judged the motive of his coming, as the recent conversation they had, had sufficiently warranted; and, without any further preamble, he, in a harsh and firm tone of voice, exclaimed, That Rozette should not be liberated there ten years, and that I should be made to repent the steps I had taken.

ken.—Monsieur Le Doux was for endeavouring to represent matters to my father, who answered him very shortly; which so provoked him, that he told my father, with all composure and coolness, That she positively should be set at liberty in defiance of all he could do.—My father, laughing, told him, he put his great power to the test,—which quite piqued his honour; so much so, that he now undertook Rozette's liberty with the doubled resolution of accomplishing his purpose. Monsieur Le Doux instantly left us, and with determined resolution, went in immediate exertion of his whole forces, for the attainment of the desired enlargement of Rozette.—

Amongst the many applications he made, one of his first was to Madame Dorigny, who was just on my arrival there, coming down to her carriage, when on my appearance she returned, and told me, she had not an instant to spare; for that she had appointed to meet two ladies of consequence, who were going with her to endeavour to procure of the Prime Minister an order for the liberation of a young girl

girl who was confined at St. Pelagie, who was strongly recommended by a very worthy co-clostrate.——I, without shewing the smallest sign of my knowing any of the parties, was for instantly taking leave, that I might not detain her in so pious and good an undertaking; joining my utmost and best wishes for the success of it.

Good deeds are never done with better grace than after having experienced *pleasure* one's self.—Madame De Dorigny found some opportunity to detain me; and entering her chamber, under pretext of having forgot something, I followed. Having taken care to undisturb her head-dress, &c. I gently laid her on the bed: thrice was I prodigal in the enjoyment of inexpressible satisfaction; wallowing in transports of delight; and as she is nowise ungrateful, she exerted all her endeavours to assist our mutual enjoyment. On her getting up, and adjusting her dress, she glowed with colours such as art could not imitate:—Nothing can equal those daisy, white embroidered

broidered by Love, and dispersed by Voluptuousness, without any affectation.

I flew instantly to the President to acquaint him, that it was very likely we should have Rozette of our party at supper that evening. We went to the Palais Royal, when it was agreed, that we should sup at his garden, and that the Baron De Bourval would be there with his mistress; that he the President would have his opera favourite; and that Rozette should be my companion. This being agreed on, we all separated; and La Verdure had orders to prepare the necessaries; but I insisted that the whole should be at my expence; which was agreed to, after much jangling. The remainder of the day I passed with much inquietude and uneasiness.

During the time my father and I were at dinner, an express came for him from the Minister, requesting he would give his consent for Rozette's liberty; as he was under the indispensable necessity of granting the re-

your; for application had been made from people of the very first consequence.—My father, finding no possibility of detaining her any longer, was for making a merit of necessity; and having requested me to attend him after dinner, he told me, he had altered his mind, and would give Rozette her liberty; but he begged, if I still loved her, that I would at least do him the favour to promise not to see her any more, and to accept of the proposal he was then going to make me; which was that of a marriage with an heiress of good family, young, worthy, handsome, and rich; which I acquiesced in, and promised, that in future he should have no room for complaint.

My father and I went instantly to the Lieutenant of the Police, where he signed the order for Rozette's liberty; and that I might enjoy the pleasure compleater, he gave me the order; and, I suppose, judging we should spend that evening together, he said he did not come home till the next day.

What

What a father! my dear friend.—It is impossible for me to describe to you my exquisite feelings at that moment!

I flew on the wings of Love to St. Pelagie, and asked to speak to the Superior Mother Abbess. She came in almost directly; but my impatience made every moment appear an hour. I shewed her the order of the Lieutenant of the Police for the liberation of Rozette; which, after turning and examining with great circumspection, she asked me who I was, which I informed her: she then asked, if I had not a brother who was a clergyman? to which I answered in the negative.—She was surprised that there should be another person in the world who should so much resemble me; and never had the smallest idea of my being the Director to whom the whole convent would confide the direction of their souls, and their sins of conscience.

They brought Rozette, to whom I communicated the order I had brought for her

deliverance, and that she had nothing else to do, than to pack up whatever she had there.

During my attendance for Rozette, the Doctor of Sorbonne, my friend, came in consequence of his address, which I had left at the convent for mine, in case any material necessity should have required my presence as confessor, before I returned my promised visit. He had received ten different letters, requesting him to come and confess them.—It is necessary to remark here, that my friend did sometimes give absolution, though but seldom; and that he was as ugly as any of Dame Nature's children of sport.

On his going to the confessional, the religiouses were all unanimous in convincing him of the mistake; for that the person they meant, was quite a different made man.

He was departing just when I met him, and being a man of vivacity and spirit, told me what had just happened. No one could decide this matter but myself: I made him acquainted

acquainted with the whole transaction; the relation of which occasioned much mirth. I unexpectedly met Monsieur Le Dour, who, with an air of dissatisfaction, said, He was going to give Rozette consolation, as he could not procure her her liberty.—How! said I, what then has become of your boasted power?—He sighed, saying, This was the time when people who thought they had most power, on their endeavouring to try its effects, felt they were more void of it than ever.

I thanked him much for the great trouble he had been at, and told him, that Rozette was then preparing to go with me.—God be praised! exclaimed the good man.

Rozette's linen was somewhat soiled, and though it was badly put on, yet the visible joy she felt, highly increased the beauties of her charms. After embracing the Superior and several of the sisters, she took her leave, and made but one step from the convent into the carriage. Had any one met me with her

and two ecclesiasticks; they would not have formed a very good opinion of them: however, her comportment was such as to ingratiate her highly in their esteem.

After setting my two friends home, I went to Rozette's; where her chambermaid had, by my orders, prepared every thing for her mistress's reception. I next sent to the President, to inform him Rozette was at home. With what extacy and transport did she look round her! every piece of furniture seemed to her eyes to possess new beauties. If a few months captivity makes freedom worth to wish, what must those feel, who have been for years confined, on their restoration! To know these exquisite sensations, one must purchase them at too great a price; for, without feeling the horrors of confinement, we can have but small ideas of the feelings on being again at liberty. Rozette's first care was to dress, and finish her complete toilet; which having finished with all the elegance she was mistress of, she instantly threw her arms round

my

my neck, and with all the effusions of love and a generous soul embraced me, and poured forth her gratefulness for the pains I had taken to procure her deliverance.

You perfectly comprehend, my dear Marquis, by what marks I proved to her how much satisfaction I felt in her enlargement. Two months want of practice had not taught her to forget the art of diversifying pleasure to infinity; for she put it in practice with full force, and in a short hour we offered *very many grateful sacrifices* to the beautiful Venus, who undoubtedly was our chief protectress. I seemingly felt the effects of her favours diffused all over me. Never, to my recollection, was I more *prodigal* and *ardent* in my *religious offerings*. Ah, charming Rozette! how many are the obligations the goddess Cytherea owes you; and how worthy are you of partaking, in a very high degree, a share in the many presents consecrated to her! After being well informed of the facilities of my dear friend, she told me she had still *seven*

seven of the ten guineas I had sent her, which she would willingly have returned me: as she opened one of her trunks, and shewed me a box with two hundred, besides several good bonds of annual stipulations; which I refused taking, and made her an addition of twenty others, and as many more for defraying the expences of our supper. She exerted her whole powers of amusing, and regaled me perfectly to my utmost expectations.

We soon reached our rendezvous; where we were expected. All the company kissed Rozette with great pleasure, and congratulated her on her appearance among them. We were seated at table; and the method in which Rozette ate of every thing, afforded as much laughter: every thing was well dressed, to her taste. She drew a comparison between her present food and that at her hermitage, which was very entertaining. The desert served, she began singing, and in a full glass of Champagne drank the health of her deliverer; which echoed round in the same

same manner. She afforded us amusement by the many anecdotes she related of the manner of conduct of herself and companions, in her retreat.

She described to us an old Mother, of about seventy, who was the Directress of all the sinners, and who obliged all new comers to relate their adventures. She made us acquainted with an hypocritical Confessor, in whose good graces she had fallen; but that all his exertions could never have induced her to make him a favourable return. She ridiculed the whole convent; and gave us, in short, a description of them all; and that there was only one young professional that she regretted, as she had afforded her many a solitary hour's amusement.

We were next told of my friend's (the President's) mistress's motives for having left the comic opera; and she satirically characterised the present little favourite, who was far

superior in the charms nature had bestowed on them.

The mistress of the Baron De Bourval began singing little libertine airs, and embraced her neighbour; whose neighbour taking example, it followed through the whole set. Thus, you see, from one to another, libertinism took its flight, and put the whole set in one general commotion. Champagne enlivened the spirits, and wit circulated with all the poignancy of satire, even against our own intentions. Venus was successively of our party. The President and his fair friend went to take a turn; the Baron and his lady did the same; Rozette and myself were left alone. They, said she, are all well occupied, my dear Counsellor! and shall we remain in idleness? She got up, and, sitting on my knees, and throwing her arms round my neck, she, tenderly embracing me, robbed my mouth of several kisses; which quite inflamed me. The fire was already kindled all over me; so much so, that she acknowledged that she was
much

much surprised at my 'prowess, particularly after the high enjoyment we had already experienced; and our ideas were not to profit of the present situation. One *flower* more, said she; which she gathered with *sensuality*. I was apprehensive I had already reaped the whole *fruits* of my *harvest*, but am much pleased to find the contrary. How *fresh* it is—*let me put it in its proper place*—which she did very *effectually*; and the *flower*, as if enchanted by its *situation*, was prepared to distil its most prolific and fragrant juices. Already had she made it partake of hers; which assistance from her made me more prodigal in my *overflowings*.

Rozette, actuated by the spirit of oeconomy, was one step in arrears; and she told me she had made a reserve, for the night, of a treat worthy of the gods; which I should enjoy. She then returned me my nosegay, and exhorted me to preserve it till that time. We all again seated ourselves at table; and having finished our liquors and desert, Ro-

zette

zette and I got into a coach, and went home. Our other companions remained there till the next morning.—I passed the night with Rozette, who amply repaid the debt she was forced to contract in her days of retirement; and, notwithstanding all the *deeds* I had already done that day, I was happy enough to give her great satisfaction.—Having spent a night in the most lascivious and luxurious manner conceivable, I left her early the next morning, in a torrent of tears.

From that time, agreeable to my promise to my father, I never had any further connection with her, excepting in the arrangement of her affairs; for, finding her possessed of a pretty fortune, I advised her to get married; which she actually did, to a very worthy tradesman, who lives in St. Honore street.

She is actually become fond of her husband, who perfectly adores her; seems much attached to their business; and is seemingly very happy. I frequently visit her; but, be assured,

assured, it is always on the footing of friendship; as I have too much sincere regard for her, ever to attempt to derange her situation by saying any thing tending to gallantry.

Monsieur Le Doux was a true prophet, when he assured me Rozette would be recovered from the paths she then pursued; because, he said, he had always hopes in a person of wit. I think this poor girl ought to be an example to all those young and pretty girls who are so unhappy as to be in that line of life. The least recompence they can make themselves, is to take care, in their juvenile days, ever to prepare a reserve, in case of an alteration in their circumstances, that they may at least, in the decline of their charms, enjoy some of those small comforts which they were formerly so prodigal of, and like her cover the attainment of the most lasting and permanent happiness. But how can we look for this prudence in people who, without any reserve, will abandon themselves to their passions in the most extravagant manner conceivable.

With regard to myself, my dear friend, I paid La Verdure his ten guineas, to which I added ten more; took my ungrateful dog of a servant from his confinement; followed my father's advice; and am actually engaged with one of the most amiable of women, whom I hope shortly to call mine, by an union of a permanent and lasting kind, by the most holy of all ties, matrimony; which I look upon this winter will complete. As you will then be at Paris, I shall enjoy additional happiness by being favoured with your presence; when you will join those laurels, which crown your brow, to those of myrtle, which the beautiful Venus and Love are preparing for your friend. My happiness will be complete, in knowing my good friend participates with me in it. Adieu! my dear Marquis. I wish you the same felicity and pleasure on your arrival, which I have felt during your absence.

F I N I S.